

THE TIMES Saturday

Emperor...
How Napoleon turned
the tables at wargames.
Waltz



...all the way to Matilda
with air fare specials to
the Antipodes.

Glass...
Seeing through the
double-glazing sales talk.
Menagerie
Bernard Levin considers
the curious behaviour of
lemmings... and
headline-writers.

Dublin tells Mugabe of its concern

The Irish Government yesterday told Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, of its concern over six Zimbabwe air force officers still detained in his country, sources in Dublin said last night. Two of the men hold Irish passports; they were arrested immediately after being cleared of sabotage charges. In Harare, the Minister of Home Affairs accused the trial judge of class bias.

Chile arrest

A former president of the Chilean Senate, Señor Patricio Aylwin, was arrested during violent demonstrations on the fifth day of protest against President Pinochet's Government.

Police kill five, page 6

Airport attack

Two light aircraft piloted by rebel exiles fired rockets at Managua international airport and the area around the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister's home, causing heavy damage.

Oil auction fear

The Government is worried about the impact on its North Sea oil revenues of BP's plan to auction part of its holding in the Forties field.

Smokers' hope

Smokers trying to give up the habit should be encouraged by a report which says that more than half do not find it difficult to stop.

NHS ultimatum

Health authorities have been told to seek private tenders for health service cleaning and catering and to report progress by February.

Miser's fortune

A miserly widow has died leaving £380,000 without a will. Unless a relative is found the money will go to the Exchequer.

Heart drugs

A new drug to treat strokes and heart attacks is to be developed in Britain for a Japanese manufacturer.

RFU appeal

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Leader page, 11

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Leading articles: Brazil and the banks; Irish referendum and Ulster: The technology of social reform.

Features, pages 8-10: Building societies and inner-city renewal; Mexico's economic strains. Spectrum: Behind the scenes with the impresario.

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IRA's Ulster chief arrested as supergrass talks

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

The IRA's Northern Ireland chief and the man alleged to be the terrorist group's Belfast leader were reported to be under arrest last night as a former leading Provisional turned "supergrass" continued to give names to police.

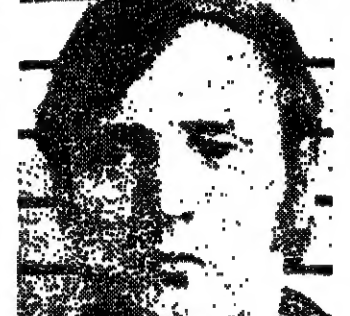
The two men are Ivor Malachy Bell, the Northern Ireland Provisional IRA Chief of Staff, and Edward Carmichael, who is being held while security forces investigate whether he is Officer Commanding Belfast Brigade.

Mr Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin MP, said last night that he knew the informer, Mr Robert Lean, and that he expected his own arrest was imminent.

Bell was reported to be the Provisional IRA commander in Belfast in the early 1970s and in 1972 was one of the seven Provisionals flown to London secretly by the Royal Air Force to negotiate a short-lived ceasefire with Mr William Whitelaw, who was then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Bell then dropped out of public prominence, but is now believed by investigators to have continued as a very senior figure in the Provisional IRA, becoming its chief of staff about three years ago.

Detectors at the Royal Ulster Constabulary Special Branch interrogation centre in east Belfast were described as elated by a well-placed source last night as they continued the questioning of 17 suspects. Two others were released.



Ivor Bell: IRA's Ulster chief of staff.

The 17 were all arrested on information provided by Mr Lean, aged 37, the latest potentially most valuable Provisional IRA "supergrass".

Police believe that Mr Lean was adjutant of the Belfast brigade and thus number two to Carmichael until his arrest last week when he decided to become a police informer and began to dictate lengthy statements.

There was no report of any further arrests on the basis of his information yesterday but official sources said that more were likely. Mr Adams, the Sinn Féin MP for West Belfast, and his party's four elected Northern Ireland Assembly men were expecting arrest.

They said in a statement that it was obvious that the RUC was attempting to "demoralize nationalists and republicans in West Belfast as a prelude to the arrest of Sinn Féin activists including themselves."

"The use of informers was 'paid perjury', a strategy the RUC was able to use because of the deafening silence of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Roman Catholic hierarchy."

"Sinn Féin will not be intimidated and we see clearly the discredited RUC corrupting an already corrupt system in order to offset our advances."

"The British Government, which is directing the show trials, should note our intention to continue to resist all aspects of their rule in this part of our country."

If the elation reported among the RUC special branch last night proves to be justified this week operations are likely to be the RUC's most effective strike against the Provisional IRA since its foundation in 1969.

There were, however, widely conflicting views about Mr Lean's importance.

Mr Adams, who was helped by Mr Lean in his general election campaign, said he was "fairly certain" that the arrest of Mr Lean was the end of his role in the IRA - "Mafia link", page 2.

TUC takes a softer line on disarmament

From David Felton, Labour Correspondent, Blackpool

Trade union leaders yesterday took the first step away from a fundamental unilateralist position on nuclear disarmament in a move that was seen by moderate unions as a significant shift on policy.

The TUC annual congress in Blackpool supported by an overwhelming majority a motion which called for cruise and Trident missile programmes to be cancelled immediately but which did not refer to the removal of nuclear bases from Britain.

Neither was unilateralism mentioned.

Mr Alistair Graham, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), who had given the motion only qualified support because it was not clear enough, said the consequence of the decision was the "People's fleet" would be scrapped, "only through multilateral disarmament".

The composite was produced after wrangling between the CPSA and the Transport and General Workers' Union. The original motion contained references to removal of nuclear bases and unilateralism, but CPSA objections led to those being deleted and replaced by a statement recalling policy "on peace and nuclear disarmament agreed at the 1982 congress".

That policy was firmly unilateralist and the left were claiming last night that mention of last year's decision made it clear that there was no large-scale shift away from militant opposition to nuclear weapons.

But yesterday's decision is likely to give heart to those who will attempt to soften the Labour Party's clear unilateralist stance at next month's party conference.

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Mr Robert Lean, the IRA informer, campaigning with Mr Gerry Adams in June.

Reagan to step up sanctions after grim Madrid meeting

By Our Foreign Staff

As Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, abruptly cut short a four-day meeting in Madrid yesterday with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, because "he was getting nowhere" over the Korean airliner tragedy, the White House said it would announce "very soon" additional unilateral sanctions against the Russians.

Nato foreign ministers in Madrid for the European Security Conference also called a meeting last night to consider a five-point plan urging tougher measures against the Soviet Union; while in London British Airways announced it was suspending its own flights to Moscow for 60 days and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Minister, demanded prompt action against the Soviet airline, Aeroflot.

Russian intransigence over the tragedy was epitomized in Madrid by the attitude of Mr Gromyko, who, American officials said, adopted "an even more aggressive tone" in his encounter with Mr Shultz than he had when he addressed the foreign ministers at the full security conference the day before.

Sounding frustrated and looking gloomy, the officials refused to say whether Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko will meet in New York later this month at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Mr Shultz himself revealed that he got nowhere with his demands to Mr Gromyko for a full explanation of the disaster during their encounter at the residence of the American ambassador here.

When Mr Gromyko arrived he found Mr Shultz already seated at a bare dining room table with his arms folded. There were no handshakes and the meeting proceeded without protocol.

Afterwards Mr Shultz read a five-paragraph statement to reporters afterwards but refused to take any questions. "Mr Gromyko's response to me today was even more unsatisfactory than the response he gave in Tokyo (Reuters) - The Soviet Union told Japan yesterday that it had found wreckage from the airliner and would pass on further results of the search."

The Soviet Ambassador Mr Vladimir Pavlov, was quoted as saying that Moscow would also hand over documents and objects discovered in the Sea of Japan. Debris had been found at four points north-west of Muroran Island, west of southern Sakhalin.

public on Wednesday. I find it totally unacceptable," he said. "This is not the end of the matter. In the days and weeks ahead the United States, along with others throughout the international community, will press hard for justice and for the families of those murdered and for safety and security for innocent travellers."

Mr Gromyko, the officials said, had shown himself insensitive to world-wide concern and at first did not wish to discuss the incident at all with Mr Shultz.

He came home with an agenda devoted to arms control, but made no new negotiating proposals and did not demonstrate any flexibility on the Geneva missile talks.

It was Mr Shultz who proposed ending the meeting after it became clear that the discussions on the disaster were not to be made constructive.

Child sex group men arrested

By David Nicholson-Lord

Three members of the Paedophile Information Exchange will appear at Bromley Magistrates' Court today. Two of them have been charged with seven offences under four Acts five of them involving alleged incitement to commit sexual offences with children.

Two of the men, Steven Adrian Smith, aged 29, and Peter Bremner, aged 44, both unemployed, were arrested by officers of Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Squad in raids on their homes in Harrow and east London yesterday, and charged last night. The third man, David Joy, aged 42, who was arrested in Loughborough, will be charged today at Bromley Court.

The joint charges, all relating to offences alleged to have taken place between June 13 and November 6 last year, include four under the Sexual Offences Act of 1956 and one under the Indecency with Children Act of 1960. The other two, under the

Irish vote 2-1 for law to ban abortion

The proposal to amend the Irish constitution to include a ban on abortion has been carried by a two to one majority in the referendum in the Irish Republic.

The result of the vote on Wednesday, announced last night, was 54.1 per cent in favour, and 41.1 per cent against. The turnout was 54.59 per cent, out of the 2,358,000 electorate.

Of the 41 electoral constituencies on which the referendum was based, just five, four of them in Dublin and the other in neighbouring Dun Laoghaire, came down against the referendum call.

But despite the low turnout, the outcome was thought certain to be secured on by hard-core "loyalists" in Northern Ireland as further barrier to Irish unity.

Mortimer warns Labour 'act now'

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

The Labour Party is today given an official warning that fundamental action is needed to reverse its 30-year decline.

Mr James Mortimer, the party's general secretary, says in his annual report for the Brighton Party conference, which starts on October 2, that the proportion of votes cast for Labour has fallen from 48.8 per cent in 1951 to just 28.3 per cent last June.

"The party is now in a position where quick, superficial reasons for our defeat will not suffice. We must make a serious study of the steady decline in the party's appeal to all sections of the community over the last 30 years, if we are to reverse the situation before it is too late."

But in a separate report on the election campaign, Mr Mortimer concludes that the party should stick to its policies - and change the voters' views.

A preliminary draft of his report was published last June but Mr Mortimer says in his final version: "It is not the party's policy but public opinion which needs to be changed."

"A serious political party should be prepared to adapt its approach to an issue and to present its proposals in a form designed to maximise support, but it should do it within a policy framework which it believes to be right."

"No socialist worthy of the traditions of the Labour movement should refuse, on occasions, to go against a strong current of public opinion if in so doing he believes such a course is necessary for the purpose of social progress."

Yet Mr Mortimer accepts that there was public ambivalence towards Labour's policies on unemployment and the welfare state, and that it was felt that Labour was making "promises that it could not fulfil."

He also points to two problems which the party could face if it now changed course on unilateral nuclear disarmament and the Common Market. He says any change of defence policy would not end the controversy, but would "only add the charge of inconsistency to other less justified charges made against Labour", and that if Labour failed to repudiate the Treaty of Rome, its current employment policies would come into conflict with Common Market regulations.

Nevertheless, the report says that during the election campaign itself regional organisers constantly stated "that criticism on the doorstep centred on the image of the leadership, disunity in the party and, for a lengthy period, our defence policy."

In one of the few bright spots of the report, it was revealed that the party anticipated a General Election fund surplus of £62,000, with "unions" contributing £2,260,819. The largest union contribution came from the Transport and General Workers' Union, which had donated £508,252.

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Most smokers do not find it difficult to stop, report says

By John Withrow

Smokers trying to give up the habit should be encouraged by a report published yesterday which says that more than half of smokers do not find it difficult to stop. Only 6 per cent felt ill-tempered or put weight as a result, and fewer than 10 per cent wanted to start again.

The report, issued by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, discloses that smokers are a bundle of contradictions.

Nearly three quarters of the 2,700 smokers questioned admitted that smoking cost more than it was worth, but said they would continue to buy tobacco even if the price rose.

Seventy per cent had tried to give up in the past 10 years and 30 per cent smoked without enjoying it. A quarter of smokers supported a ban on smoking in public places and the majority favoured measures to encourage people to stop.

Most smokers were aware that the habit could contribute to coughs or lung cancer (although 5 per cent remained impervious to the endless gloomy medical reports), but remained convinced that they would escape ill-effects because they did not smoke enough.

At the same time, most believed that smoking would bear

some responsibility if they were to contract bronchitis, heart disease or lung cancer.

Among those smokers, a substantial minority wanted a ban on cigarette advertisements, were also in favour of allowing people to smoke where they liked in public, but by questioning both smokers and 1,700 non-smokers, the researchers found there was wide support for bans in many, if not all public places.

Another apparent contradiction was that most smokers had urged children to avoid the habit but felt resentful when they were asked not to smoke in company.

Most questioned believed the majority of the population smoked and were surprised to find that only just over one third of adults now do so. Young people were found to be less willing to accept other people's smoking.

Of non-smokers, the research found that 30 per cent were frequently bothered by smoke and 42 per cent occasionally. One fifth avoided events where they knew there would be smokers.

"Smoking attitudes and behaviour: OPCS" (H.M. Stationary Office: £15.80).

MAIN REASON FOR TRYING TO GIVE UP

| | All smokers % | 'Failures' 1st period | 'Failures' 2nd period | 'Successes' 1st period | 'Successes' 2nd period |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| To save money | 36 | 29 | 21 | 5 | 12 |
| Feeling unwell at times | 20 | 23 | 21 | 10 | 24 |
| Afraid of future illness | 20 | 23 | 21 | 10 | 24 |
| Problems at work | 20 | 23 | 21 | 10 | 24 |
| Just wanted to | 20 | 23 | 21 | 10 | 24 |
| To please someone else | 20 | 23 | 21 | 10 | 24 |
| Some other reason | 20 | 23 | 21 | 10 | 24 |

* Some respondents gave more than one answer.
Six months elapsed between interviews.

Woman, 69 jailed on drug charge

A grey-haired, bespectacled woman aged 69 was jailed for four years yesterday for her part in a £1m drug-smuggling ring.

Mrs Margaret Redding, of no fixed address, was jailed after Judge Vick QC was told at Maidstone Crown Court that she had acted as a courier, bringing in dozens of cases packed with cannabis.

The judge said: "It is matter of regret that I have to sentence a woman of your age and health to a custodial sentence."

The leader of the gang of 23, John Green, 55, was jailed for nine years, fined £75,000 and ordered to pay £6,000 costs. Other members were also jailed.

Gearbox blamed for derailment

The first derailment involving a British Rail high-speed train was caused by gearbox overhauling, a Ministry of Transport inquiry report said yesterday.

The accident, at Northallerton station, north, Yorkshire, in August 1979, could have been avoided if the gearbox had complied with the lubrication procedure, it said. The train stayed upright and only one passenger was injured.

Children hurt

Fourteen children and a teacher from a primary school in Bladon, Oxfordshire, were hurt yesterday when a coach on which they were travelling was involved in a head-on collision with a lorry in the village. Six of the passengers were slightly injured.

Crash toll rises

The death toll in the crash involving a coach and two cars near Littleport in the Highlands on Monday rose to six yesterday with the death of Mrs Margaret Wilson, aged 56, from Glasgow, a passenger in one of the cars.

Victim named

A youth who fell 60ft to his death down a disused mine shaft in Northend, near Alton, Cambridgeshire, was identified yesterday as David Colin Brooks, aged 17, from Billingsworth near Newcastle upon Tyne.

Toy snake ban

Toy snakes imported from Taiwan, which may contain water contaminated with sewage, have been banned from sale in Britain. A child was reported to have contracted dysentery after handling one.

Best bitter

Bridge bitter, brewed by the Burton Bridge Brewery at Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, which has a workforce of five, has been awarded the title of Britain's best bitter by Camra, the real ale campaigners.

Rail death

Mr George Oliver, aged 45, of Sunnybank, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, died yesterday after being struck by a train on the Retford to Sheffield line. He had been searching for his lost dog.

No to legal aid

Mrs Pauline Neal, aged 29, who staged a five-week sit-in at Crawley Hospital, West Sussex, has been refused legal aid to challenge the borough council's refusal to house her family.

£1,000 robbery

A man wearing sailing clothes held up the Portman Building Society in Dorchester, Dorset, yesterday, and escaped into a crowded street with £1,000. He was believed to have a pistol.

Playhouse sold

Edinburgh District Council yesterday agreed to sell its biggest theatre, the 2,700-seat Playhouse, to Mr Norman Springfield, a businessman.

Rat hazard

Health inspectors in Ipswich yesterday ordered their canten in the civic centre to be closed as a hazard after a rat was found.

Dr Who heads BBC home video drive

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

Dr Who, Reginald Perrin and the Two Ronnies are among the characters who will re-launch the BBC into the home video market in the wake of a 18-month agreement between the corporation and unions representing actors, writers, and musicians. Prior to the new agreement the BBC video catalogue was restricted to certain sporting and musical events, documentaries and a small selection of old films.

The new titles are - *The Best of the Two Ronnies*, *Butterflies*, *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin* and *Dr Who (Revenge of the Cybermen)*.

According to BBC research, 85 per cent of video cassettes used in the home are rented. That accounts for about 4.5 million transactions a week and makes the rental cassette market worth about £400m a year. The videos

would be expected to be popular in the rental market although they will also be available for sale.

The first four titles will be available from October 10 and three or four will be released each month over the coming 18 months. In November *Grange Hill*, *Ripping Yarns*, *The Good Life* and *Blue Peter* makes will be released which will be followed in December by *Target*, *The Goodies* and *The Beano* and *Top of the Pops* (based on 15 performances by groups on the programme during 1982).

The corporation which has launched its titles under the banner Video Tapes is also making plans to sell its video products overseas.

The corporation has not disclosed the precise selling price of the videos they are expected to retail for £30 to £35.

The system is designed, using 56 retail outlets, so that no special monitoring takes place.

New chart for videos

A temper-proof sales chart for the video industry has been launched by Gallup in association with the magazine *Video Week*.

It will run on the same lines as a computerized music chart introduced at the beginning of the year for *Music Week*, the music trade publication. It will provide an accurate record of the numbers of rentals and sales of video cassettes, a £100m business last year. The number of video

cassette recorders in domestic use is expected to rise this year to 4% million from just over 3 million.

Mr Malcolm Martin, Gallup's director, is confident that the *Video Week* chart will become the standard industry reference in the same way that the music chart used by the BBC has succeeded.

The system is designed, using 56 retail outlets, so that no special monitoring takes place.

Prince faces tough training on Lynx

Prince Andrew will have to work hard when he starts an advanced training course on Lynx helicopters, the man who will be his commanding officer said yesterday.

Lieutenant-Commander Tom Bailey, commanding officer of 702 Naval Air Squadron which the Prince joins at Portland, Dorset, on September 19, said: "He will find it difficult. We do not spoonfeed these boys. We require them to take a responsible attitude to their training."

The Prince, a sub-lieutenant who will be promoted to lieutenant in February, has flown Sea Kings and will undergo a six-week course on the more advanced Lynx.

He will live in the officers' mess at HMS Osprey, Portland, and will be given the normal accommodation of a cabin and an

area with a desk for study. The captain of Osprey, Captain Robin Doe, has called the Prince "a good pilot".

Four observers and four pilots will join the course. After about a month one of the observers will be chosen to work with the Prince. He will stay with the Prince for the rest of the course as the two men learn to operate as a team. They will then be posted to a ship and are likely to work together for two or three years.

Lieutenant-Commander Bailey said Prince Andrew would find a big difference between the Lynx and the Sea King he flew in the Falklands campaign last year.

The Lynx, which costs £2m, was smaller and more powerful and has been described as the E-type of helicopters.



Vote of approval: Children at Hatfield school giving their verdict on the new meals service (Photograph: David Cairns)

School meals service goes private

By Barbara Day

The first privatized school meals service in Britain started operating this week in the London Borough of Merton and it has proved popular with the children.

A typical class of 26 children aged eight at Hatfield Primary School in Morden, south-west London, had chicken and mushroom in a king with pasta, rice and peas followed by strawberry surprise, and then voted 10 out of 10 for the new service.

The meals cost 57p each and the menu will include specialities such as quiche lorraine, ravioli, steak and kidney pie, pasta bolognese and

curry. Teachers have the same meals, with a choice of salad.

The headmaster of the school, Mr Hugh Streeter, said: "We are delighted to have hot meals instead of the children all having to bring packed lunches through the winter. The meals are presented on very colourful and attractive trays and the children love them."

Ninety five children had the new hot meals yesterday and 162 brought packed lunches. The proportion may soon increase, judging by the reaction of the class of 26, of whom nine had the hot meals, nine thought they would

switch from sandwiches having seen their friends enjoy the meals, and the remainder thought they would continue bringing packed lunches.

The children liked the trays and the food and their only complaint was that the portions were too small and there were no second helpings.

The service is being provided by the Sutcliffe Catering Company (South) Ltd, which is preparing 6,500 meals a day for schools in the borough.

A spokesman for the council, which is controlled by Conservatives, said it had already privatized the refuse collection and cleaning services.

Fortune awaits miser's relative

By Richard Evans

A miserly widow worth a small fortune has died without leaving a will.

The £380,000 left by Mrs Phyllis Elizabeth Grey who was found dead at her neglected three-bedroomed home in the Devon village of Brixham earlier this year, will go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer unless a relative is found within the next month.

It is believed to be the biggest sum involving intestacy. The Treasury solicitors department is looking into Mrs Grey's somewhat puzzling past in an attempt to find a relative.

Most of the money is in stocks and shares, accumulated by her naval husband, who was related to the family of the former premier Sir Anthony Eden, and who died in 1976.

In her later years Mrs Grey, shunned visitors at her once luxuriously decorated home, let her garden overgrow into a wilderness and, despite her

wealth, employed no home help at her house quickly become run down.

Mr Joan Carter, aged 67, a former neighbour who lives in Gillard Road, said last night: "She did not want to spend any money. She lived a very frugal life and would have nobody in. I do not think she had ever been used to money."

What is complicating the search for any relatives of Mrs Grey is her apparent readiness to change her name and background during her life.

Born at Tamar near Devonport in July, 1900, her birth certificate gave her name as Emily Mabel Kessel, daughter of William Charles Kessel, a shipwright.

When she married on December 14, 1939, the marriage certificate had her as Phyllis Elizabeth Rolston, daughter of John Henry Rolston, a dental surgeon.

"We have not been able to ascertain why the change of name took place," Mr John Lee, of the Treasury solicitor's department, said last night. Officials are looking for blood relatives of the deceased whose surnames are likely to be Kessel or Trick. Mrs Grey's mother's maiden name.

Doctor's bequests
Dr John Bodkin Adams, the Eastbourne doctor cleared of murdering a wealthy woman patient 26 years ago, has left bequests to 20 women in his £402,970 net will.

His solicitor and executor, Mr John Chesbrough, said yesterday that 47 friends of Dr Adams who stood by him during the 17-day trial at the Central Criminal Court would receive between £250 and £5,000.

Dr Adams died in July, aged 84, after breaking a leg while engaging in one of his favourite sports, clay-pigeon shooting.

Other wills, page 12

Private schools 'bad for Britain'

From Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent, Cambridge

Independent schools are a cause of the British Malaise, Mr Brian Tyler, the headmaster of Kingswood Comprehensive School in Corby, said yesterday.

Speaking at the annual conference of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, in Cambridge, Mr Tyler said that the most damage was done by keeping alive the notion of a hierarchy of schools. "It helps, in fact, to preserve and cement the class system - perhaps more than anything else."

"I believe this is a bad thing, a bad thing for the education of all our children, and a bad thing for the country". Research showed that Britain's poor industrial performance was attributable to divisions and lack of communication between management and labour when compared with West Germany and Japan, Mr Tyler said.

Mr Tyler, whose school was the subject of a BBC television series last year, emphasized that he was not in favour of abolishing independent schools for libertarian reasons. Liberty was more important than equality, he said. "Nevertheless I think it would be better for everyone if they did not exist."

Mr Tyler said that if the rich and powerful sent their children to schools which were under-sourced or did not have very good staff, the political will would be focused suddenly to put things right and fund the system properly.

The view had always been held implicitly that state education was not as good as private education. State schools had aped private schools, while the school one attended was a badge of one's social class.

"What some people want in a school is not education but the carte into privilege".

'Naive' spending

The new political adviser to Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, says that state schools are inadequately managed and should probably receive less government finance (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

Mr Rodney Lord, writing in the latest edition of the journal *Public Money* says that too often more spending on schools is equated with "more education". That, he says is naive.

Mr Lord is particularly critical of the amount spent by some local authorities on building maintenance, cleaners and other support staff.

Two hundred teaching jobs are to be cut by Staffordshire County Council next year as part of a £6m economy package. The staff cuts will save £1,225,000.

Forty-eight primary and secondary school teaching posts are to be lost in Suffolk. The Conservative-controlled council announced yesterday that it was also to reduce spending on books and equipment by £80,000.

British Loans save money

6% home loans

bonanza

"A week is a long time in politics."

SR HAROLD WILSON

"A Week in Politics lasts 45 minutes."

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TUC BLACKPOOL 1983

Privatization • Energy • International affairs • Sex equality

Sex equality

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Through this week Labour leadership candidates have been moving in and out of Blackpool. Their fleeting appearances have been a sign of the new ambivalence of the trade unions to Labour Party politics. The political contenders may be seen but not heard.

Mr Shore's visit was particularly brief. Perhaps, it might be thought, an indication that he is about to pull out of the leadership race. There has been some speculation on that point, but it is mistaken. Mr Shore will stay in the contest until the end, even though he has not the slightest chance of being elected.

This is no doubt a matter of personal pride. But there is another reason. As his chances of success have evaporated, so his campaign has ceased to be a serious quest for the leadership. Instead, he has used his candidature as an opportunity to say things about the condition of the party that needed to be said. It has been a more fearless and less calculated campaign than any of the others.

From this standpoint, simply being in the race continues to serve a purpose for Mr Shore. There would be no sense, though, in his devoting much time to an occasion that provides an opportunity for discreet and gentle lobbying, but not for outspoken public comment. Blackpool this week has not been an appropriate stage for Mr Shore.

A friendly word here, a gentle quip there

It has been a much more congenial setting for Mr Kinnock. One of his principal political assets is his engaging personality, and he has been able to move around Blackpool with the relaxed air of an undoubted winner, exchanging a friendly word here, a gentle quip there. All he has needed to do this week has been to strengthen personal ties with trade union leaders. So the conference has presented him with a useful opportunity but not a testing challenge.

Mr Hattersley has been in a more difficult position. He no longer has a serious chance of winning the leadership next month, but he is also engaged in a close contest with Mr Mander for the deputy leadership. Mr Hattersley ought to win, but not by so much that he can afford to disregard the opportunity to carry a little more trade union support. It would be surprising if he scorned the chance of a few useful conversations while he was in Blackpool.

Mr Hattersley, too, is not using his campaign simply to win votes. He has been consistently uncompromising as Mr Shore, but he has become progressively more outspoken. Because of Mr Len Murray's vote on the candidates, however, Mr Hattersley had to do his speaking outside Blackpool this week.

At Lancaster on Tuesday evening, he took as his theme the need for reasonable compromise within the Labour Party. He was careful to distinguish between compromise and appeasement. He emphasized the desperate need within the party for "straight talk about its performance, its failure, its policies". He pointed out that it was the failure of the Left to compromise with opponents in the party which did so much to damage Labour's cause in the election. Yet his analysis served to underline the ambivalence of the position in which he is likely to find himself if he becomes deputy leader.

Time to compromise and a time to fight

No political party can be effective without a degree of compromise. But there is a time to compromise and a time to fight. To compromise too soon can be just as damaging as refusing to compromise at all. As his campaign has developed, Mr Hattersley has given every indication that this is now the time for Labour's right and centre to fight if they are to keep the party in the mainstream of British politics.

Yet as deputy leader, the arguments for compromise which he used on Tuesday evening are liable to be deployed against him. He will be told that his contribution to a balanced leadership is to encourage unity from the right, at a time when he ought to be encouraging resistance from the right.

The danger will be minimized if Mr Kinnock shares his view of how the party should be guided - and Mr Kinnock should not be mistaken for a member of the hard left - if enough senior trade unionists are determined to restore a sense of reality to the party, and if the National Executive Committee does not after all swing left at Brighton next month.

But as deputy leader Mr Hattersley will be risking severe pressure to compromise the stand he has taken in his campaign.

Unions to launch concerted attack in war on 'piratization'

A coordinated campaign against the Government's plans to sell off nationalized industries and public sector services is to be organized by the TUC general council.

The campaign, according to the motion successfully moved yesterday by Mr Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union, will include coordinated industrial action organized by unions directly affected by plans to hive off parts of state-owned industry.

"We have to sink some of our differences and drop some of the pots we have had in some of our organizations and join in defending the public sector and its unions," he said. Privatization is being used by the Conservatives as a device to weaken the trade unions in the public sector and as such it is an attack on us all.

Several speakers described problems and deficiencies that had arisen in local government services as Conservative councils had privatized street cleaning, refuse collection and school cleaning and school meals.

Mr Malcolm Horne, national union of teachers, said that since children went back to school at the beginning of the week, his union had been deluged with complaints about the situation in the London borough of Merton which had privatized the school cleaning and school meals services. The complaints had been such that all the teachers' association and all the head teachers had had to threaten the Merton authority that children would have to be excluded from schools unless something was done quickly.

Mr Stanley said that on the crucial issue of privatization, or "piratization" as it is called, the trade union response had been disorganized and fragmented. Since the June election, more "piratization" was threatened for British Telecom, British Gas, British Airways, British Shipbuilders, British Airports Authority, British Leyland and Royal Ordnance factories and the National Bus Company. In local government and the health service, privatization was increasing.

It became clear at an early stage in the British Telecom unions' campaign against the privatization of BT, that popular support for the public sector could not be taken for granted.

One of the prime objectives of the co-ordinated campaign must be to reinvigorate public confidence in public service rather than private profit. Mr John Edmunds, General Secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, told Congress: "We seem to have the role of Frankenstein in the old horror films."

"With the best of intentions we have created monsters of destruction: destruction of communities, industrial capacity and jobs," he said. "We find ourselves in the ironic position that the public sector we brought into being has caused more upheaval than has the private sector."

Mr Sirs successfully sought the approval of Congress for a motion noting that the accountability of nationalized industries to Parliament was being drastically eroded and consultative procedures with trade unions ignored. The general council was instructed to carry out a full examination to restore and increase democratic control of nationalized industries.

"We are identified with nationalized industries and we have to find ways of bringing about their original purpose. We have to build public support and approach the public sector in a very different way," Mr Sirs said.

He said the record of Parliament in controlling nationalized industries was atrocious. Ministers had almost given up the job. Mr Ian MacGregor, the former chairman of British Steel and now chairman of the National Coal Board, had actually taken powers away from ministers and stifled information. It was once his duty to give.

Mr MacGregor had caused the unnecessary loss of tens of thousands of jobs and piled up huge losses. Yet another £1m was to be paid for his services.

Mr John Edmunds: Files of mistakes

'Frankenstein' warning

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Referring to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's call for "a return to Victorian values" the motion said Tory plans aimed for a society in which women were redomesticated

Reports from Alan Wood, Gordon Wellman, and Stephen Goodwin

miles at an average speed of nine miles an hour. "That is just outside the qualifying time for the Olympic marathon," Mr Edmunds said. Then a mistake was found. Apparently the contractor misread the scale of his map. "We could call them cowboys, but when they got on a horse they would probably face the wrong way."

Mr Alan Tiffin, Union of Communications Workers, said he had recently returned from the United States where advertisements were being placed by telephone users in local papers complaining that local charges were skyrocketing after the introduction of competition.

He forecasts that once British Telecom was sold off that would happen in Britain and within three years, half the call boxes would disappear from rural and suburban areas. People would have to pay for operator assisted calls and for more repairs.

Mr Tees Sawyer, National Union of Public Employees, said his members were angry about government insistence on privatization within the health service. Government arguments were a smoke-screen. Privatization was aimed directly at restructuring the public sector, including the health service in favour of private capital and the sooner they got that message across the better.

"I object strongly, as I presume you do, to my taxes being used to subsidize the private medical sector and I am damned if I am going to subsidize it with my blood as well," he said.

Mr Richard Roeser, Transport Salaried Staffs Association, said the story of the sale of the British Railways hotels was one of deception with promises and undertakings broken. An organization with a high reputation had been destroyed and a number of the new owners had made abundantly clear their hostility to trade union organization in the hotels they had bought.

Mrs Rose Leach, Confederation of Health Service Employees, said National Health Service funds provided easy picking for government panic measures to appease the stock market.

Mr Geoffrey Drain, General Secretary of the National and Local Government Officers Association, said on behalf of the general council that some unions have different policies on industrial action from others.

"In saying we would coordinate industrial action, that would not mean unions were instructed to take industrial action. Nevertheless, where unions take action, the general council will coordinate it and do its damndest to bring it to a successful conclusion."

Congress also approved a motion which called on the general council to develop a strategy of the TUC to oppose the introduction of plans to build the American-type PWR here. Moving a motion asking Congress to declare its opposition to the proposal, he declared: "We do not accept that the introduction of

His delegates were said to be practically at each other's throats yesterday over the question of support for the TUC General Council statement condemning the Russian shooting down of the Korean airliner.

Mr Scargill himself is unrepentant about his letter to the *Workers' Revolutionary Party*, which characterized the Polish free trade union Solidarity as "an anti-socialist organization who desire the overthrow of a socialist state." He said: "That does not mean I oppose Solidarity existing. But they are not a socialist organization and certainly not based in the way the British trade union movement is."

He went on: "I believe I have got the support of the delegation, bearing in mind the letter was sent personally. I have no doubt there is a move afoot from the newspapers, television and radio to damage me as much as possible."

His letter to *Newline*, official daily publication of the ultra left *Workers' Revolutionary Party* was private and its publication caused serious embarrassment. His critics within the NUM leadership believe its credibility is at risk.

In the days before the TUC conference, the new chairman of the National Coal Board, next week to hear of his plans for closing pits.

But it is practically impossible to get rid of Mr Scargill. Asked what would be the outcome of any censure move at the September 15, executive meeting in Sheffield, Mr Vincent observed crisply: "None."

Like his ebullient predecessor, Lord Gormley, Mr Scargill is free to speak his mind. However, even his political allies fear that every fresh bout of media hysteria makes it less likely that the union can win the strike ballot which it is committed to hold "at the appropriate time", on pit closures.

The TUC had managed to get some changes to the Equal Pay Act 1964 instead of the government had originally proposed. The new regulations on equal pay for work of equal value could help women's pay.

The overwhelmingly male Congress was chaired by women delegates over its attitude to sexual equality and reminded of its responsibility to stamp out sexual harassment of women workers.

Ms Julia Tinsley of the Transport Salaried Staffs Association, drew wolf whistles from delegates as she walked to the rostrum with a pink bow in her hair. "The sounds you hear show why it is necessary for me to be here," Ms Tinsley rejoined before urging delegates to support the Women's Action Day on October 29.

Mrs Marie Patterson, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, on behalf of the general council, said the council's advice on sexual harassment was absolutely clear: "Do not support members who are sexually harassing other workers. Alert your members that this degrading form of victimization must be stamped out. Adopt your trade union procedures to deal with sexual harassment."



The stormy progress of Arthur Scargill

Derision at 'shock horror' remarks

By Paul Routledge

Mr Arthur Scargill, the left-wing miners' leader, has proved once again that he is a top box office draw. Television cameras follow his every move and he can still steal the headlines from historic developments at the Trades Union Congress.

He rode out the latest storm over his controversial views about the Polish Solidarity union yesterday but the discontent building up over his leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers is expected to resurface with renewed bitterness at a national executive meeting next week. His long-time critic, the Lancashire pitmen's leader, Mr Sydney Vincent, said yesterday: "These remarks are not doing the union any good. We are becoming the laughing stock of the trade union movement."

The turnaround in Mr Scargill's fortunes could scarcely be greater. Elected with a landslide majority less than two years ago, and applauded before he could even get to the rostrum at previous TUC conferences, he is now openly derided, though he remains a cult figure for a substantial proportion of delegates.

The NUM president complains bitterly that he is the subject of a concerted media attack and that his views on the coal industry are ignored while any remarks about the international situation get the full "shock, horror" treatment. There is justice in the charge, but his own actions have made him Fleet Street's favourite *bête noire*.

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Applause as delegates back fight against pit closures

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, was again the centre of attention yesterday. During the conference debate on energy policy he was loudly applauded, with some delegates standing, as he called for maximum trade union backing for the NUM campaign against pit closures which would mean the loss of 70,000 jobs.

There were a few boos when he went to the rostrum, but all that was submerged when he attacked what he called the Government's policy of buying out jobs at a substantial price. Such payments were all right for early retirement in all industries. "But no man or woman has the right to sell the job of their son or daughter," he declared.

He persuaded the conference to carry a motion calling for a national energy policy and laying down that the Government should stipulate a target of 200 million tonnes of coal a year.

Supporters and opponents of nuclear power had their say on a motion urging the Congress to oppose the introduction to Britain of the pressurized water reactor (PWR). However, in a card vote, an amendment was narrowly carried adding "if either the Layfield Inquiry or the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate declares that the PWR proposed for Sizewell is unsafe."

The nuclear reactor debate began on a motion, moved by Miss Margaret Platt, of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, calling, among other measures, for more promotion and support for research and development in nuclear energy. She complained that the government had reduced the budget.

Mr Peter McNessey, General Secretary of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, reported and Shonfin (Nacods) then opened the floor to plans to build the American-type PWR here. Moving a motion asking Congress to declare its opposition to the proposal, he declared: "We do not accept that the introduction of

the American-type pressurized water reactor is necessary, safe, or in line with the energy policy."

He asked how expenditure on the project could be justified when world energy requirements were low and there was over-production in all energy industries.

Introduction of the PWR into the National Grid would result in the closure of one or more older power stations. Said Mr McNessey, who added that continuation of nuclear energy must be with the British advanced gas-cooled reactor.

On the safety of the PWR, he commented: "Three Mile Island happened. We did not imagine it. You can install all the safety devices you like but we know safety devices fail and human beings make mistakes."

Mr Ian Gibson, of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, according, said the Government wanted to build 10 PWR's at a cost of £2,000m each. That meant cuts in other public expenditure to pay for this "white elephant".

There were loud interruptions during the speech of Mr John Lyons, general secretary of the Engineers and Managers Association, who put forward the amendment proposing opposition to the PWR only if the Layfield Inquiry or the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate declared that the PWR proposed for Sizewell was unsafe.

Mr Lyons described the motion as a crude attempt to make Congress make up its mind about the PWR before the facts had been established. If the PWR did not meet the stringent safety requirements laid down then the unions and Congress would want nothing to do with it.

There was a programme of £700m involving major British firms, he pointed out, adding: "Do you want to stop this before you even know the facts?"

Mr Scargill, moving the NUM motion which affirmed that the formulation of a national energy policy was long overdue and stated that the Government should stipulate a target of 200 million tonnes of coal a year.

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stipulate a target of 200m tonnes of coal a year, said that, once again, the industry faced the axe as the Tory Government and the coal board advanced menacingly with a closure programme of 70 pits and 70,000 jobs.

The Government had embarked on a policy of buying out jobs. Miners were being offered more than £20,000 in lump-sum payments and up to 50 per cent of take-home pay over 10 years. The Government had worked out that in putting this into operation it was not merely buying off the person in the job, but his son and grandson as well.

"There may be those in our movement who claim they are entitled to this sort of redundancy payment. I believe we are entitled to those payments for retiring early in all industry. If you think you have the right to sell your job that might be your own opinion. But no man or woman has the right to sell the job of their son or daughter," he declared to loud applause.

Mr Kenneth Sweeney, of Nacods, told Congress: "Our kids are grabbing the golden handshakes." The queue for redundancy was an example of the philosophy of exploiting people's basic emotions and fear.

Mr Geoffrey Drain, general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, for the general council, said the composite motion before the conference adequately reflected the views of its fuel and power industries committee. The motion opposing the PWR was divisive and the general council would like Congress to back the amendment. Different unions had different views about the PWR and the place of the nuclear component. But the committee had reached a broad consensus.

The composite motion was carried. The engine room managers' amendment on PWR safety was carried in a card vote by 5,012,000 votes to 4,719,000. A majority of 293,000. The NUM motion was also carried.

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IRA gibe in outburst over GLC 'lunacies'

By David Felton

The Congress was in uproar when a right-wing union leader attacked the "lunacies" of the Greater London Council's administration at the Greater London Council.

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic and Plumbing Union, was howled down when he counselled against TUC support for backers of "terrorist groups, lesbians, and other queer people."

He ignored shouts of "off, off" and continued with his attack on the GLC. Inner London Education Authority and the Metropolitan County authorities which have been threatened with disbandment by the Government.

Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, rebuked him, saying he found his statements "offensive" and irrelevant to the argument as to whether the TUC should mount a campaign against the Government's "shock plans".

Mr Hammond, who takes over from Mr Frank Chapple at the end of the year, said his union had been approached to drop its amendment to the call for the campaign to end embarrassment. But recent statements by Mr Livingstone had made it clear that the amendment was necessary. He accused the GLC leader of "giving comfort to Sun Fein, and through them, to IRA terrorists."

Mr Murray said the TUC General Council, of which Mr Chapple is a member, opposed the GLC's "shock plans" and said that it would be wrong for the TUC to seek commitments of good behaviour from local authority leaders.

"We may find it necessary to work with Conservative controlled councils and the political complexion is as irrelevant to the argument and, in its own way, as offensive as many of the statements that Mr Hammond has made."

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Mr Murray said the TUC General Council

Rockets fired at Nicaragua Air Force base

Rebel attack closes Managua airport

Managua (AP, Reuters) - Two light aircraft piloted by rebel forces, bombed the city of Managua and its airport yesterday, causing heavy damage but apparently no casualties, an army spokesman said.

Commander Roberto Sanchez said that anti-aircraft gunners at the airport shot down one of the aircraft, a propeller-driven Cessna 402, which crashed at the base of the control tower, killing the pilot and co-pilot.

He identified the pilots as Agustin Roman, a Nicaraguan who once worked for the national airline Aerona, and Sebastian Moller, an air force deserter. Other sources, who spoke on condition they were not named, claimed the aircraft came from bases in neighbouring Costa Rica.

One aircraft dropped two bombs near the home of the Foreign Minister, Fabrice Migot D'Escoto, in the south-west section of Managua, shortly before dawn. Father D'Escoto, was away at the time, in Panama City, attending a conference of Latin American foreign ministers.

Witnesses in the area said the bombs caused some damage, but the extent was not immediately known. There were also no reports of casualties.

About 15 minutes after the bombing near Father D'Escoto's house, at around 5300 am (11:30 GMT), the second aircraft dropped two bombs. Commander Sanchez said. He said one fell near an Aerona hangar. Almost immediately, soldiers manning anti-aircraft guns lining the runways opened up on the aircraft.

Another report said the rebels

launched a rocket attack on Air Force installations.

The Deputy Minister of the Interior, Sergio Luis Carrion, said a Cessna propeller-driven aircraft carrying four men had fired two rockets at the military air base adjacent to the airport, damaging buildings and members of aircraft.

After four blasts struck the air base, police and security forces cordoned off the airport, on the fringe of Managua, and prevented access to journalists and other civilians.

At the time of the explosion, scores of journalists were checking in for the first night of the day, but the airport's main passenger terminal appeared to be closed.

Salvador, Edgar, a leader of the anti-government forces, said last month that his group had obtained several aircraft which had been scattered in the Sandinista's hands over the past year.

He said they will drop something like 500 lb of bombs on the city.

His supporters came at a time when Mr. Cesar Weinberger, the US Defense Secretary, was in Managua on a visit at least partly aimed at keeping up US pressure on the Sandinistas.

Washington, blaming them for the explosion, said the rebels are the most serious threat to the peace of Central America, and has increased military pressure on the leadership here, including large-scale joint manoeuvres in Honduras.

The explosion also coincided with a visit to Managua by the



Gunning for rebels: Mr Weinberger inspecting USS New Jersey off El Salvador

● **TEGUIGALPA:** Mr Weinberger, arrived on Wednesday night and was due to meet the army's Chief of Staff, General Claudio Alvarez, who told a news conference last month that he wanted \$300m (£200m) in

additional military aid. (Reuters reports).

The Defence Secretary's visit, part of a three-nation Central American tour, spotlights Washington's emphasis on strengthening its allies against

alleged efforts by Nicaragua to destabilize Central America.

● **GUATEMALA CITY:** Guatemala's new leader, General Oscar Mejia Victores, said yesterday that his country needed and wanted US aid restored. (Reuters).

Seven more die as Zia begins Sind tour

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad

Seven people were killed and three others critically wounded in an election clash in Baluchistan, north of the troubled province of Sind yesterday. Supporters of a candidate in the Kot Mengal union council elections fired on a rival vehicle outside a polling station.

Meanwhile, General Zia-ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, arrived yesterday on his first visit to some of the towns of Sind since the violent anti-government campaign began on August 14. He landed at Jacobabad, a fairly quiet town close to the Karachi district.

General Zia has accused the late Mr Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party of leading agitation against him in Sind, but claimed that it has been confined to particular areas. He repeated his charge that anti-government elements backed by foreign money and assistance were responsible for such lawless activities. He said that calm and tranquillity were pre-requisites for his programme to transfer power to a civil government by March, 1985.

However, Dr Asrar Ahmad, a controversial right-wing Islamic scholar and preacher who angered Pakistan feminists by his campaign for purdah (veil and chador), described the Sind situation as endangering the very existence of Pakistan. He attacked the regime for treating the Sind problem as one of law and order, and said that not even the most patriotic Islam-loving person would be able to control Sind if its political rights continued to be denied.

Ottawa may cut funding

Fees row threatens health service

From John Best, Ottawa

A three-way dispute involving Federal aid, provincial governments and the medical profession is threatening the foundations of Canada's highly developed and popular public health insurance programme.

The quarrel concerns two simple but emotionally charged expressions, "user fees" and "extra-billing".

The first refers to the deterrent charges which an increasing number of provinces are putting on the use of hospital beds; the second to charges which doctors impose on patients beyond what the insurance plan pays for medical services.

The Federal Government is threatening to cut health care funding to provinces which permit such levies, contending that they endanger the universality of hospital and medical insurance schemes introduced in the 1960s.

Half the cost of these programmes - C\$9,300 m (almost £5,000 m) last year alone - is paid by Ottawa, even though they are administered provincially.

The Federal Health Minister, Mrs Mariann Bevan, has warned doctors that if extra charges are not stopped, "sooner or later we will be back to pre-Medicare days, with private insurance for those who can afford it".

Medicare in this country refers to the entire state hospital-medical care package.

A meeting between Mrs Bevan and provincial health ministers in Halifax this week produced no solution, though she said later

that she was willing to consider provincial proposals on how to do away with extra charges.

Of the 10 provinces, French-speaking Quebec is the only one where neither user fees nor extra-billing is allowed.

Health care is primarily a provincial responsibility in Canada, but the federal Government can influence its content by setting standards which the provinces have to observe to qualify for Federal financial help.

The difference between what the doctor charges and what the provincial fee schedule allows may be considerable, frequently amounting to around 30 per cent, and the patient has to pay it.

Usually, doctors who extra-bill have opted out of the health insurance plan. Instead of sending their bills to the insurance office these doctors bill the patient directly. The patient pays and then collects from the insurance plan whatever portion the plan covers.

A few of the provinces help pay for Medicare by charging premiums - \$680 (£360) a year per family in Ontario, for instance - but most finance it from general revenues, augmented in some cases by special sales taxes.

Four provinces have also adopted user fees for hospital facilities, which are intended to discourage non-essential demand on beds as much as to raise revenue.

Doctors who bill through the system and accept the going fee schedule, are inclined to look on extra-billing and direct-billing as important symbols

Soviet envoy's visit upgraded by China

Peking (Reuters) - Mr Mikhail Kapitsa, a Soviet Foreign Minister, arrived in Peking yesterday for talks expected to cover Sino-Soviet relations, which have shown signs of improvement in the last year.

At Peking airport, Mr Kapitsa said he would discuss international issues, but gave no details. He was welcomed by his host, Mr Qian Qichen, Deputy Foreign Minister, with whom he is scheduled to hold two rounds of talks. A Chinese spokesman said Mr Kapitsa would also meet Mr Wu Xueqian, Foreign Minister, during his visit, which is expected to last about 10 days.

Mr Kapitsa, the Kremlin's

leading China expert, has visited Peking several times in the last few years, but this is the first time he has come to cover Sino-Soviet relations.

He, his predecessor, Leonid Brezhnev, and his present working visit represents a significant upgrading. He is visiting China about a month before Sino-Soviet talks are expected to resume in Peking, the third round since last October.

The Soviet side in next month's talks, set at the two previous rounds, will be headed by Mr Leonid Dyachenko, another Deputy Foreign Minister, while Mr Qian Qichen will continue to lead the Chinese team.

Diplomats regard Mr Kapitsa's mission as a counter balance to a visit to Peking later this month by Mr Cesar Weinberger, the US Defense Secretary, and his entourage, which is expected to be evidence of China's increasingly over-the-top policy towards the two superpowers.

A rift there has taken place between Peking and Moscow since a call for better relations by Mr Brezhnev in March 1982, after more than 20 years of hostility.

Disputes, says a spokesman, resulted from frustration with Washington over arms sales to Taiwan, as well as realization that a prolonged cold war with the Soviet Union is not in China's best interests.



Mr Kapitsa: Kremlin's leading China expert

Freed prisoner made mayor of tremor town

From John Earle, Rome

A week after leaving prison, Signor Maria La Rana, aged 45, a civil engineer, was in office yesterday as Mayor of Pozzuoli, the town west of Naples where 15,000 of the 70,000 population are reported to have fled for fear that persisting earth tremors herald a volcanic eruption.

Signor La Rana, from Senator Giovanni Spadolini's Republican Party, used to be deputy mayor in a Christian Democrat-headed civic administration which recently resigned. He was arrested on charges relating to the issue of building permits and released from prison this week on parole, though the charges against him remain. He heads an administration from which the Christian Democrats have been ejected.

Three-step plan for transfer of Hongkong

Hongkong (AP) - The Hongkong Prospects Institute, a "think tank" on Hongkong's future, has proposed that sovereignty over the British-ruled territory be transferred to China in three stages.

The idea was immediately attacked by the local pro-Peking daily *Tu Kung Pao*, which said the proposal "embodied the wishes of the five million people of Hongkong and the one billion people of China".

The Institute suggested that in the first stage of the transition - from now until 1997 - the Chinese and British Governments should organize jointly a public opinion survey, the results of which should serve as the basis for their decision on the future status of Hongkong.

Polish prosecutor gives student death details

Warsaw (Reuters) - Charges against six people, including two policemen, in connection with the death of a Warsaw student after he was detained by the police, have followed four months of intensive inquiries.

It is extremely rare in Poland and other Eastern-block countries for policemen to be publicly charged in such cases, and the Warsaw public prosecutor's announcement on Wednesday contained a detailed account of the circumstances.

It also accused "anti-socialist centres" in Poland and abroad of mounting a "slandorous and deceitful campaign" intended to portray the death as an act of revenge for the student's mother's political activities.

Two policemen, two ambulance staff and two doctors are being charged in connection with the death of Grzegorz Przemyski, aged 17, who died of massive internal injuries after being picked up in the centre of the capital on May 2 in fluster police action to break up crowds gathered under the banner of the banned Solidarity trade union.

Tens of thousands of mourners turned out for his funeral which became a massive demonstration of support for Solidarity.

Przemyski became a martyr in the eyes of Solidarity supporters, who say more than 20 people died

during the funeral lay period. Official figures say less than 20 died. Przemyski's mother, Mrs Barbara Sadowska, worked with a church committee helping political detainees whose headquarters were broken up by police a few days earlier.

The prosecutor's announcement said Przemyski had been drinking, was wearing no shoes and was being carried on a friend's back when police stopped him in Castle Square in Warsaw.

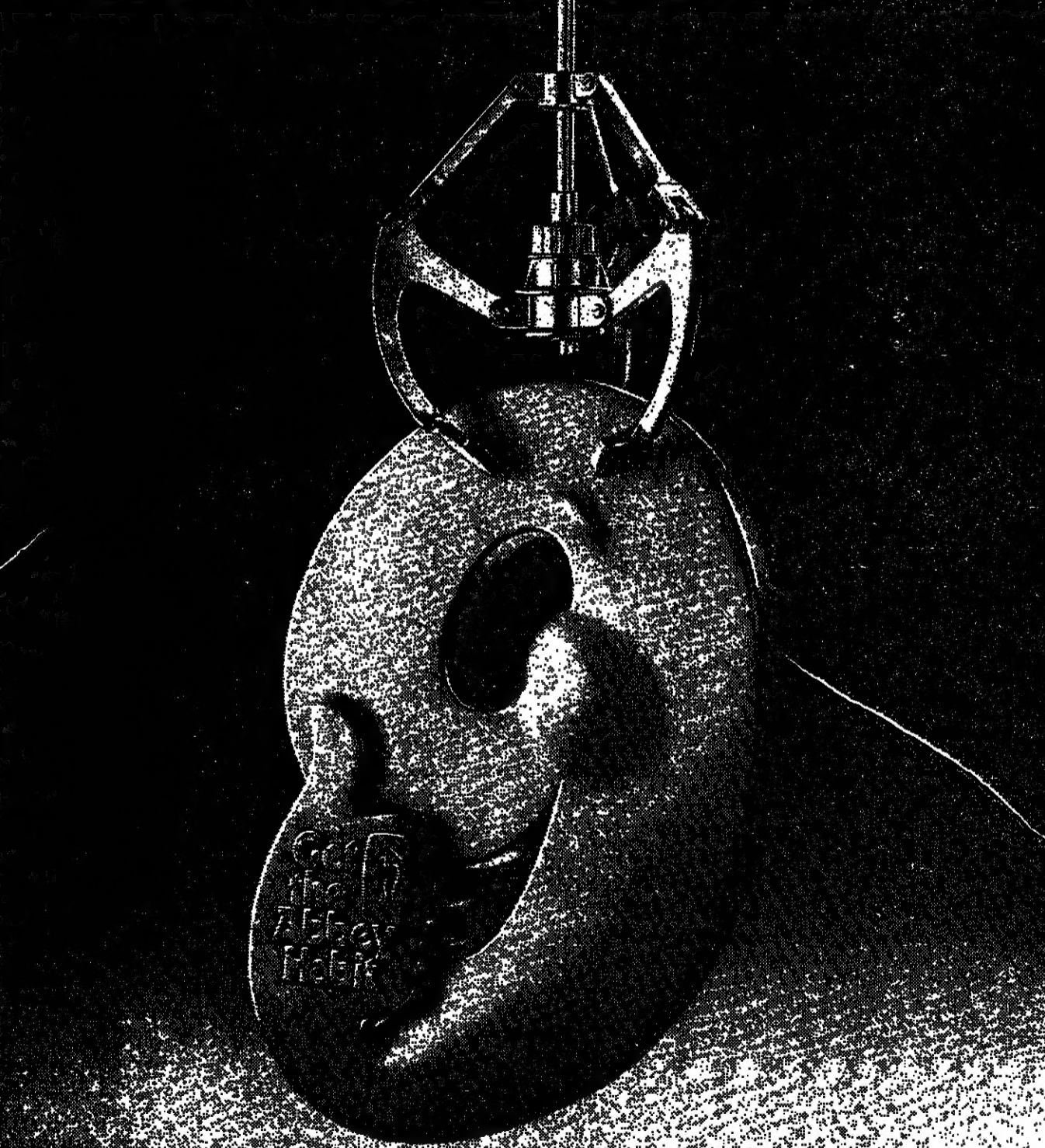
He refused to hand over his identity card or say who was when he was taken to a police station. He was aggressive and tried to take away a policeman's hat, which caused a scuffle, it said.

Because of his unusual behaviour a medical intervention was called and Przemyski was taken to an emergency medical station.

Ambulance crew members had told investigators he had to be restrained when he grabbed at their hair and faces. He was superficially examined by a psychiatrist who recommended he be taken to a psychiatric hospital. Przemyski's mother later viewed and was allowed to take him home.

Mrs Sadowska, contacted a doctor the next day who sent him to hospital for an emergency operation. He died shortly afterwards.

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ABBNEY NATIONAL TWO YEAR BONDSHARES

The Korean jet disaster

Senior Kremlin officials to face questions from Western press

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Senior military and political officials are to give a rare press conference in Moscow today to react to the world outcry over the jumbo jet tragedy and give further details of the Soviet version. The officials include Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, Chief of the General Staff, and Mr Georgy Kornienko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It is believed to be the first time that Marshal Ogarkov has publicly by senior figures are in any case unusual in Russia. Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, gave a detailed press conference in April, but this was regarded as exceptional.

Observers expect Marshal Ogarkov to be pressed to confirm that Soviet fighters shot down the Korean plane, and to reveal at what level the decision was taken. Questions at Soviet press conferences are normally submitted in writing and channelled through a chairman. But in April Mr Gromyko took questions from the floor.

Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister, yesterday arrived at a sebastopol in the Crimea to attend a ceremony, a move apparently intended to underline the Kremlin's view that its version of events is widely known and the immediate crisis has passed.

The Kremlin has taken comfort from the fact that neither the Western stand at Madrid over the jumbo crisis nor the airline pilots' boycott has been unanimous. Diplomats said Soviet officials had studied the lessons of

previous Western responses to Soviet outages and had calculated that trade sanctions were discredited, and poorly coordinated when applied. *Pravda* noted at the time of the US-Soviet grain agreement last month that sanctions were no longer favoured by Western governments.

There has been no official comment so far on the retaliatory measures outlined by President Reagan, or to the 60-day boycott of Moscow flights by British, French, Scandinavian and other pilots.

The last British Airways flight to London from Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport was seen off yesterday evening by well-wishers from the increasingly stranded foreign community, and left a trail of controversy in its wake.

Banning Moscow flights will only damage the airlines themselves and benefit Aeroflot, one European airline official said.

Others said a ban on landing and refuelling rights for Aeroflot at major Western airports would be more effective, but would involve abrogation of the international air services agreement. The pilots' boycott will make no impact on ordinary Russians, very few of whom are allowed to travel abroad.

Tass yesterday reported Sir Geoffrey Howe's meeting with Mr Andrei Gromyko in Madrid, but did not report Sir Geoffrey's description of Soviet action as "incredible and appalling". It said the two men had exchanged views on issues of interest to Russia and Great Britain.

Mr Gromyko's speech to the Madrid conference in which he said the jumbo's flight had been "cut short" by a Soviet fighter, was prominently printed in *Pravda* and widely read by Russians, most of whom said they accepted his account. Mr Gromyko's contention that the plane had special links with American intelligence was seen by most Russians as self-evident.

Tass commented that it was significant that the US had not published a passenger list, and said this could be because intelligence agents had been on board the plane.

Soviet press and television carried several statements by Soviet legal authorities seeking to show that Soviet action against the Korean 747 had been in accordance with international law.

Professor Yuri Maleyev, head of aviation law at the Civil Aviation Institute, said that under the Chicago Convention flights over another state's territory could only be made with "express permission" and no one had turned to Moscow for sanction. The theory that the airliner had strayed accidentally was "virtually ruled out", Professor Maleyev said.

Reporting the Security Council sessions, Tass said the US had staged a propaganda show to discredit the Soviet Union and absolve itself of responsibility for the tragedy.

The press carried a stream of excerpts from foreign papers supporting the Soviet case, although nearly all the papers cited were Communist Party Organs.



War games: A US Marines mortar crew in Beirut taking a break after coming under shellfire.

Marines will stay put in Beirut

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration has made clear that it does not intend to change either the size or the status of the American component of the multinational peace-keeping force in Beirut, despite continued attacks by Muslim militiamen.

A State Department official speaking shortly after a US naval vessel had fired a salvo at Druze positions in response to a shelling against 1,200 US Marines dug in around Beirut airport, also told *The Times* that the US would not accede to demands being made by some Congressmen that the Marines should be withdrawn.

"To do so would be to abandon Lebanon to chaos and civil war", the official said. He expressed the belief that the US-equipped and trained Lebanese Army appeared to be slowly bringing the situation under control and had recently taken over some strategically important points in the foothills of the Chouf.

The Army is doing pretty well against formidable odds. The main thing is that the force is holding together better than expected and has not split along political or religious lines.

The official was speaking as an American amphibious force with 2,000 additional Marines on board was approaching the eastern Mediterranean.

Although the US has said the Marines will not be sent ashore, their presence is intended to show the Druze and their Syrian backers that the US will not be intimidated into leaving Beirut.

The official said the British, French and Italian components of the 5,400-man peace force were equally determined to continue with their mission. The French contingent suffered three more deaths this week, bringing to 16 the number of French servicemen killed since they were dispatched to Beirut almost a year ago.

Although President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon has publicly called for the expansion of the multi-national force, no formal requests have been received by any of the four nations' capitals to raise the size of their contingents.

Britain switches envoy's posting

Mr Nicholas Barrington, recently head of the British interests section in Teheran, will not now be moving to Beirut as ambassador, as announced last May, the Foreign Office confirmed last night. (Henry Stanhope writes). A spokesman said the reasons were "operational" and that another appointment to the Lebanon post would be made in due course.

However, a high-level inter-departmental committee has been meeting in Washington to consider US options if the Lebanese Army fails to bring the situation under control and the Marines continue to take heavy casualties. One option, to pull out and let the Lebanese resolve their internal feuds by themselves, has been ruled out. This would lead to a collapse of President Amin's fragile government and would be an invitation for Syria, which has some 40,000 troops in northern and eastern Lebanon, to fill the political vacuum.

Similarly, a decision to beef up the US force in Beirut also seems a non-starter at present, because it would meet strong opposition in Congress, which is wary of the US being sucked into a Vietnam-type situation in the Middle East.

Representative Clarence Long, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee on foreign operations, announced that he intended to seek to withhold funds for US forces in Lebanon until and unless President Reagan invokes the War Powers Act.

For the moment it seems likely that US ground and sea forces will respond more vigorously if the

Marines come under deliberate attack.

● PARIS: Concern increased in France yesterday about the safety of the peace-keeping force after the latest deaths (Reuters reports). Sources said M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, hurried out of a Cabinet meeting to telephone his Syrian counterpart in Damascus when news of the deaths arrived in Paris.

● BAHRAIN: A senior Saudi Arabian envoy flew to Damascus yesterday for talks with Syrian leaders to pave the way for a resumption of Saudi efforts to mediate in the Lebanese crisis (Reuters reports).

It quoted an official source in the Information Ministry as saying Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the new ambassador to the United States, made the trip after a telephone call from Damascus.

WHO'S WHO IN THE LEBANON FIGHTING

The following are the main forces involved in the present fighting in Lebanon:

THE DRUZE, fighting as the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP). Comprising an estimated 10 per cent of Lebanon's population, the Druze describe themselves as Muslim but are regarded by most other Muslims as heretics. The PSP was founded by Kamal Jumblatt, who led the left-wing side in Lebanon's civil war of 1975-76, and is now led mainly from Damascus by his son, Walid.

THE PHALANGE or Kataib: a Lebanese nationalist party founded by the father of the present President in 1936. Mainly Maronite but including some Orthodox Christians. The Maronites have been the dominant community in Lebanon since independence, providing both President and army commander. They traditionally look to the West for protection against the surrounding Muslim Arabs.

THE LEBANESE ARMY. Hitherto an ineffective force but, lately retrained by the Americans, it performed well in street fighting in Beirut last week. Officially neutral, the Army has been increasingly drawn into the fighting on the Phalangist side. It is regarded by many Druze and Muslims as an instrument of Maronite

domination. Christians form a majority in the officer corps.

The Shia militia **AMAL** (meaning "hope"), was formed by the late Imam Musa Sadr, an Iranian and friend of Ayatollah Khomeini. Sadr disappeared mysteriously in Libya in 1978, and Amal is now led by Mr Nabih Berri. The Shia are the underdog community in Lebanon but believed now to be the largest single group. At present allied with the Druze.

THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE, composed of Americans, French, Italians and British, was sent in a year ago to protect civilians and help Lebanon recover its national sovereignty. Has been shelled by the Druze but would prefer not to take sides in a Lebanese civil war.

THE ISRAELIS, whose withdrawal from the Chief precipitated the present round of fighting, were formerly allied to the Phalangists but are now apparently neutral between them and the Druze, so long as Syria does not move in its own forces on the Druze side.

SYRIA, still occupying northern and eastern Lebanon, has condemned President Gemayel's government for signing an agreement with Israel, and is supplying weapons and other equipment to the Druze.

Family flies to freedom in balloon of old macs

Vienna (Reuters) A Czechoslovak family, who made a spectacular escape across the Austrian border on Wednesday night in a home-made hot air balloon, will be allowed to join relatives in Austria. Interior Ministry sources said.

Police said Mr Robert Hutys, aged 38, an engineer and spare-time racing cyclist, flew his wife and two children over the border into Lower Austria in a balloon strung together from old raincoats and propelled by domestic propane gas.

Czechoslovak border guards spotted the balloon and fired flare rockets to light up the sky but they were unable to halt its 50-minute flight. Mr Hutys said he had planned his escape to the last detail two years ago. The winds were favourable on Wednesday.

Wall guards defect to pub

Berlin (AFP) - Two East German soldiers, on duty with the border patrol, crossed over in full uniform, carrying their weapons. Dishevelled after scaling the Wall, they shocked the patrons of the Little Whiteflower Inn when they walked in.

When they announced they had defected the innkeeper and customers applauded and offered them beer and cigarettes.

Punjab clash injures 63

Delhi (Reuters) - At least 63 people, some of them police, were injured in an anti-Government demonstration by Communist supporters in the northern state of Punjab, the Press Trust of India reported.

Police in the state capital of Chandigarh used batons and tear gas to disperse the demonstrators, who threw bricks and stones. The "anti-farmer, anti-worker and anti-youth" policies of the Punjab Government were the target of the protest.

Paid to leave

The Hague (AFP) - Travel expenses and reimbursement costs will be paid to foreigners who take up a government compensation scheme and go home. It will be put to Parliament next week and will be available to all 543,000 foreigners except citizens of the EEC and Dutch West Indies.

Borneo beaten

Hongkong (AFP) - A US team sponsored by a tobacco company has completed a 43-day, 1,500-mile crossing of Borneo, the last expedition to traverse the island. They trekked through primitive jungle and descended several rivers never seen by Westerners before.

Georgian shot

Moscow (Reuters) - A factory boss in Soviet Georgia, Georgy Saakadze, has been executed by firing squad for embezzlement and taking bribes. Pipe lagging he supplied for Tbilisi's water mains was cheap glass-fibre instead of the high-quality wool felt paid for.

Typhoon alert

Hongkong (Reuters) - Residents left work and hurried home for shelter as Typhoon Ellen approached across the South China Sea. All schools were closed, ferry companies suspended service and the city battened down in readiness.

Racial secret

Johannesburg (AFP) - An abandoned two-month-old baby which South African authorities were unable to classify racially has been adopted by a Pretoria family whose own racial origins have been kept secret.

French solution

Paris - A majority of French people (51 per cent) think that the best way to fight unemployment would be to send the immigrant workers back home, according to a Sofres poll.

Swiss rolling

Berne (AP) - There are 40,000 millionaires or multi-millionaires among the 3.2 million taxpayers in Switzerland, according to official statistics on private wealth in 1981.

Correction

In Western Europe, the country with most resident foreigners is Luxembourg, with 26 per cent, not France, as stated in a report from Paris on September 1.

Victim's son attacks 'evil empire'

From Melvin All, Washington

Mr Trygvi McDonald, son of the right-wing congressman killed in the South Korean airliner, has called on President Reagan to "break off all economic and diplomatic relations with the evil empire - the Soviet Union".

Mr McDonald, aged 22, met Mr William Clark, the president's National Security Adviser, at the White House on Wednesday and gave him a petition urging much tougher sanctions against the Soviet Union.

Before delivering his petition to Mr Clark, Mr McDonald told a rally in Lafayette Park, facing the White House: "My father is gone and nothing can bring him back. If by dying he has ended Western appeasement of the Soviet Union, then he did not die in vain."

When he tried to deliver a protest letter to the Soviet Embassy on Wednesday, an unidentified embassy employee refused to accept it and tossed it back through the embassy fence.

Mrs Kathryn McDonald, widow of Larry McDonald, who was leader of the John Birch Society, has indicated that she may run for her late husband's House of Representatives seat.

After the meeting with Mr Clark, Mr McDonald seemed less

angry and said that the president should not overreact.

He told reporters later: "We must be sure the world wakes up and recognizes the communist threat", but he added that he did not favour cutting off diplomatic negotiations or cancelling the Geneva arms control talks with the Soviet Union.

Administration officials said yesterday that President Reagan was considering further steps against the Soviet Union. "I think you're going to see the screw continue to turn," a White House official said.

He added that the degree to which the Administration stepped up pressure on Moscow would depend on Soviet responses to US demands for an apology, restitution for the victims' families and assurances that such an attack would not occur again.

A spokesman for the National Security Council said the focus for the President now was to "seek an allied consensus, rather than frighten people by getting too far out in front".

President Reagan was yesterday meeting Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, US representative at the United Nations, to consider what further action could be taken; and

he also consulted Vice President George Bush.

Mr Bush will also be able to condemn the Soviet action during his 10-day North African and East European tour beginning on Sunday. He is visiting Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary and Austria.

Meanwhile, public anger continues to mount. US publishers have announced a boycott of the Moscow Book Fair, and three video games at the University arcade in Austin, Texas, have been reprogrammed with anti-Soviet messages.

Americans are boycotting Russian vodka as a way of expressing their anger (Trevor Fishlock writes). Nine states have told their liquor control boards to stop buying vodka and owners of bars and drink shops are refusing to sell it.

A bar-owner in Maine and another in Detroit made it public by pouring bottles of vodka down the drain.

In Los Angeles, stevedores are refusing to unload a Russian freighter with a cargo of vodka and paper goods. The leading importer of Russian vodka is not joining the boycott. "It won't bring anybody back to life", a spokesman said.



Winning smile: Lidia Wasiak, aged 21, a medical student from Szczecin, who has been elected Miss Polonia, and become the first Eastern block contestant in the Miss World competition for 15 years.

Kohl boosts investment

From Our Correspondent, Munich

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Government plans to fight unemployment by consolidating state expenditure and boosting public and private investment, according to the Minister of Economics, Count Otto Lambdorski.

Defending the Government's tight 1984 budget before Parliament yesterday, Count Lambdorski said that public employment programmes demanded by the Social Demo-

cratic opposition provided no long-term solutions to the jobs problem.

The budget debate, which opened in the Bundestag on Wednesday, coincided with a move by the Central Bank to raise its basic interest rate by an expected half per cent to

\$500m arms credit helps Greece sign bases pact

From Mario Mediano, Athens

The United States and Greece yesterday signed an agreement allowing the Americans to operate their military bases in this country at least until the end of the decade in exchange for security safeguards to Greece in the form of credits, military hardware and a promise to preserve the military balance in the Aegean.

For the Socialist Government of Greece, which came to power two years ago on a qualified commitment to dismantle foreign bases, it was a bold and binding option.

To minimize the political cost the move was sandwiched between two pro-Soviet initiatives by Athens this week: the blocking of a European Community condemnation of the Soviet Union for the destruction of the South Korean airliner, and the plan to press for a six-month delay in the deployment of British 2 and cruise missiles in Europe, at Monday's EEC foreign ministers' meeting in Athens.

The bases agreement, concluded after negotiations lasting eight

months, was signed at the Foreign Ministry last night between Mr Yiannis Kapsis, the Greek Under-Secretary, and Mr Alan Bertind, the American Charge d'Affaires. They also signed an "exchange" of letters reaffirming President Reagan's pledge of \$500m in military credits to Greece this year, as well as an undertaking to respect the balance of forces between Greece and Turkey.

There was a delay of seven weeks between the initialing of the negotiated English text and the signing of the English and Greek texts, which the Greek side insists are of equal authenticity and validity, because of differences over the translation of key words.

One of those words was "terminable", in relation to the ending of the agreement after five years, after a written denunciation delivered five months earlier. The other was the term "equivalents" with reference to the granting of military assistance to Greece and Turkey to preserve the military equilibrium.

Lawyers walk out of Aquino inquiry

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A walk-out by human rights lawyers and supporters yesterday interrupted the second day of hearings by a presidential commission investigating the assassination of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader.

At the same time, the Supreme Court asked the members of the controversial commission, which consists of the Supreme Court Chief Justice and four former justices, to explain within 10 days why they should not be disqualified from inquiring into Aquino's death.

The two moves sprung from widespread doubts in Philippine legal circles about the legality of the commission and the likelihood of a fair hearing into the circumstances of the August 21

killing of Aquino, minutes after he returned home from three years' exile in the US.

The commission is being boycotted by the Aquino family and the opposition because, they claim, the commission members lack impartiality and are " beholden to President Marcos".

Three petitions were filed early this week with the Supreme Court questioning the impartiality and constitutionality of the commission.

One, filed by Aquino's People's Power Party, sought an order restraining the Chief Justice, Mr Enrique Fernando, from continuing as chairman of the commission on the grounds, among others, that he was too closely linked to the Marcos government

and his appointment violated the separation of powers doctrine, by which a member of the judiciary could not assume non-judicial functions.

The lawyers quit the hearing when the commission asked a witness to present and subpoena their own witnesses and said all witnesses should be presented after consulting with the Deputy Chief Prosecutor, Mr Amado Sen, who is conducting the hearings.

Earlier, lawyers claimed that the questioning of the first witness, a government pathologist who conducted the post-mortem examination on Aquino, "was cut short to fit his testimony into government theory".

THE ARTS

Cinema: Geoff Brown on new releases in London and at the Edinburgh Film Festival, David Robinson in Venice

Double-dutching in city squalor

Wild Style
ICA Cinema

Return Engagement
(15)
Screen on the Green

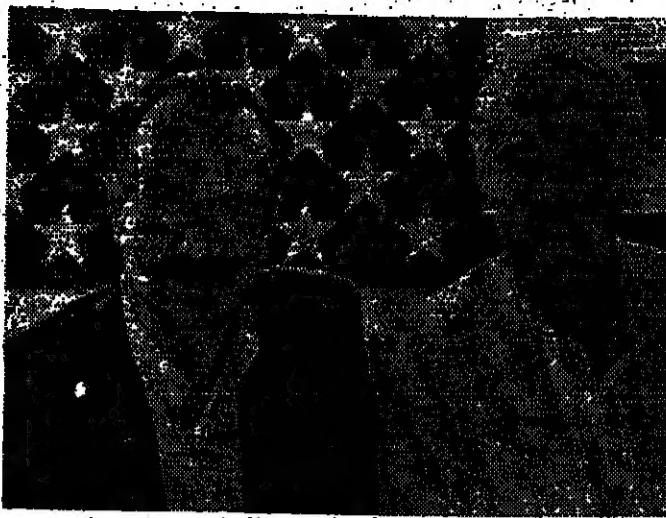
The Pirates of
Penzance (U)
Classic Shaftesbury
Avenue

Cambridge
Animation Festival

American slang, fashions and food have wormed their way into our culture. But that vast country across the Atlantic can still seem as mysterious and remote as Tibet or Papua New Guinea. Witness this week's new releases. *Wild Style*, for instance, could almost be taken for science-fiction. Characters live in garish squalor amongst buildings and trains transformed by aerosol cans into colourful kaleidoscopes of shapes and faces; when not spraying paint they expend their energies reciting impenetrable patter and rhythmically writhing on the floor. Yet this is a semi-documentary, filled with the sights, sounds and population of New York's South Bronx, the mysterious activities go by such names as rapping, breaking, scratching and double-dutching.

Return Engagement presents a spectacle just as bizarre, though rather more disturbing. An untitled duffer sits in an ornate, coloured pullover repeatedly saying "I'm a philosopher", houses his name number two, born before 1946 are dead; even if they are alive, the future of the world, furthermore, lies in young kids and video games. Alongside is a whippet-faced flybiter in grey and dark blue, plausibly expounding odious notions of private and public morality.

Despite first impressions, these figures of fantasy and nightmare are real, certified people. The first is Timothy Leary, former



Tuning in: Liddy, left, and Leary

Harvard professor and drugs prophet, responsible for the concept. This is, turn on and drop out, the Home Secretary this week banned his proposed trip to Britain to publicise his autobiography. The second is Gordon Liddy, former lawyer, FBI agent, Nixon aide and mastermind of the Watergate burglary. O brave new world, as Miranda said, that has such people in it.

The brave new world of *Wild Style* may be circumscribed by urban poverty and violence, yet the film still carries a refreshingly optimistic charge. Writer-producer-director Charlie Ahearn has soaked himself in the Bronx environment, and his sympathy for his subject is infectious. As a piece of cinema, *Wild Style* enjoys some of the slick effects and visual theme lavished on *Flashdance*; but the rough-and-ready 16mm photography, the thunderous sound, straggling plot and pockets of wobbly dialogue never impede our enjoyment of the characters.

At the centre is the teenager Raymond, suffering from pimples, a badly scarred nose and a feeble moustache; by night, however, he is "Zoro", the legendary king of Bronx graffiti, who turns idle grey subway trains into loud, victorious murals. Raymond's creative and emotional problems theoretically provide the plot's pivot, but the script constantly tosses them aside for the greater glory of rapping, breaking, scratching and

the like, as practised by the Cold Crush "Four Brothers, Chief Rocker Busy-Be, Sandra "Pink" Fabers - the list is both endless and absurd. After 82 minutes one emerges dazed, happy and slightly deaf, full of new respect for human ingenuity and the young; ready to clear a cheerful path through New York's jungle.

The lessons of *Return Engagement* are rather less salutary. For Leary and Liddy, after a combined eight years in jail, have teamed together to become the highest-paid performers on America's lecture circuit: they recount their exploits and declare their thoughts while young audiences, frightenedly, take notes. The film documents eight days in their lives on stage at a Los Angeles theatre, relaxing with their wives, lecturing to school children, playing in video arcades, visiting Hell's Angels.

Return Engagement provides evidence of his continuing fascination with American counter-culture, but the fragments are assembled here with self-effacing skill. Leary and Liddy are left to reveal themselves through their own words and actions. The tactic works well in small doses, though the viewer is left with a great many questions unanswered. It is only in the final restaurant scene, for example, that we glimpse the pair's combative social relationship and find their minds meeting head on; the public debate only reaches the level of music-hall sparring.

The New York Shakespeare Festival production of *The Pirates of Penzance* presents yet another curious American artefact: the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta decked-out with pounding new musical arrangements, manic choreography and pop luminaries like Linda Ronstadt and Rex Smith. The film version, directed by its stage progenitor Wilford Brinley, was made at Shepperton in the winter of 1981-82, when the noise of the show's success still rang in people's ears.

This artless transformation of an essentially theatrical experience boasts the charm and vivacity of lukewarm porridge. At first the resolutely artificial visual style evokes weird memories of Fassbinder's *Querelle* once again, but the related backdrops, maritime architecture, a suggestive lighthouse and a shipful of strapping sailors. But the film soon creates its own unhappy world; only Angela Lansbury and the witty Penzance settings of British designer Elliot Scott bring any real pleasure.

The biannual Cambridge Animation Festival is happily upon us again (September 13-18), offering a bumper bundle of American independent films and six international surveys on the theme of "Animation and Persuasion". There are no political games of cat and mouse here: Bugs Bunny gleefully hands Japanese soldiers chocolate bars with hand grenades inside; Indian animators in 1941 depict Churchill as a money-grubbing Jewell and Hyde monster.

The festival also includes fascinating work from Britain. Iona Laidy, an appraisal of Mrs Thatcher by Goldsmith's College student John Le Pelley, impresses with its imaginative violence and technique. *The Paris Years* - Igor Chaz Pleyel, from Keith Griffiths and the Brothers Quay, wittily documents Stravinsky's activities in the 1920s. The American Robert Bresson is deservedly treated to a selective retrospective (September 13) and an Arts Council exhibition (at the Gallery on the Cam). Bresson's films gambol through mixed visual materials with gentle humour and grace; few experimental animators give so much pleasure so simply. Screenings are mostly at the Arts Cinema, Market Passage (023 352001).



Gerard Depardieu as the revolutionary Danton

Returning with the obscure

A lot of film history is made at festivals. Seventeen years ago Alexander Kluge's *Abiched von Gestern* won the special jury prize at Venice and proved a landmark in the subsequent launching of the new German cinema. This year Kluge is back in Venice with a new film, *The Power of the Word*, and a new manifesto, still defending the German cinema from the politicians who want to remove its subsidies.

Kluge's film is a new exercise in his characteristic style of impressionist philosophy. Here he sets out to explore the place of the emotions in German psyche and society. Even for Germans, quicker than foreigners to pick up a mass of local reference, it is apparently obscure.

A German-Swiss co-production, Thomas Koerfer's *Gist* ("Embers") deals with a little-publicised aspect of Swiss history: the massive economic and industrial support given to the Nazi war effort. It was an ironic motto of the times, "Six days we

work for the Third Reich, the seventh we pray for the allied victory". The policy served to maintain high employment and ensure future economic stability.

Koerfer's screenplay ingeniously concentrates the action and the issues in the life and home of a rich arms manufacturer and views the tensions through the eyes of the twelve-year-old son of this authoritarian father.

The city has witnessed the changing fortunes of many Eastern European film directors in the post-war years. Andrzej Wajda, Poland's greatest director now deprived of his official posts, had two films here, both made outside his own country. Danton, his fine essay on revolutionary corruption and decline, was already in the making in France at the time of declaration of martial law in Poland in December 1981. Since the film is due to open very soon in London, I will withhold further comment until then.

A Love in Germany was made more recently, on location in

West Germany. The theme - a wartime love between a German and a Pole - remains to this day wholly unacceptable to the Polish censorship, which is probably why it is so attractive to Poles abroad. Krzysztof Zanussi's *Faith in the Night* told of the rather sacred attraction between a Polish countess and a young German officer. Based on a best-selling novel by Rolf Hochhuth, Wajda's film is about an earlier love affair between a village shopkeeper and a Polish prisoner of war.

The quality of the film is its meticulous observation of the mood and aspect of this obscure corner of the country during the Second World War. The insuperable problem is disbelief in face of the way the couple flaunt their affair. Considering official Nazi strictures about even acknowledging the humanity of the inferior and hostile people these two parade their feelings in a fashion that goes quite beyond all notions of *l'amour fou*, to become sheer idiosyncrasy.

Dogged by danger

Nineteen eighty-three should go down in Edinburgh Film Festival history as the year of the dog. Not content with Samuel Fuller's electrifying *White Dog*, the festival director Jim Hickey also served up Lewis Teague's *Cujo*, piping hot from Hollywood, featuring a rabid St Bernard lurching and slobbering to preposterous effect. After that, every spaniel in Princes Street Gardens seemed lethal, and the soporific documentaries about Cretan Indians building hare canoes suddenly acquired a new, if short-lived, charm.

Documentaries and independent films swamped the scheduled; the dogs were there for icing, along with proven festival successes shortly due for British release (Wajda's *Danton*, Zeffirelli's *La Traviata*). The sheer bulk of films at least enabled their virtues and vices to emerge with clarity. Joel DeMott and Jeff Kraines's study in American adolescence, *Seventeen*, offered an instructive array of *cinema verité* flaws: the camera swung madly to catch every character who talked, the lead girl showed off, and audience interest collapsed. Luckily, Australia's *Cello and Cora* triumphantly proved the genre's strengths. The director-cameraman Gary Kilday unobtrusively tags along with his subjects - two of Manila's many undernourished, struggling to keep their young family united and healthy by selling cigarettes (illegally) on the streets.

Two other documentaries stood out from the heap. Steve Dwoskin's *Arts Cinema* film *Shadows from Light* brilliantly explored the visual world of Bill Brandt's photographs by weaving his own patterns of shadow and light with its beautifully stark black-and-white photography and gliding camerawork, this was among the festival's most arresting - and refreshing - items. Diane Orr and C. Larry Roberts's *SL-1* offered far darker enchantments: the figures stalking in hypnotic slow motion were scientists from 1961, testing for radiation after an accident at an Idaho reactor; the film imaginatively juxtaposes archive clips, investigative interviews and goblets of poetic imagery.

Theatre

A cast charged with high passion

Crime and
Punishment
Lyric, Hammersmith

Yuri Lyubimov's production opens with the sight of Raskolnikov derisively flashing a hand-held lamp into our eyes and declaring that "a true Napoleon is permitted anything". It ends with a quotation from a schoolboy's essay: "Raskolnikov was right to kill the old woman: too bad he got caught."

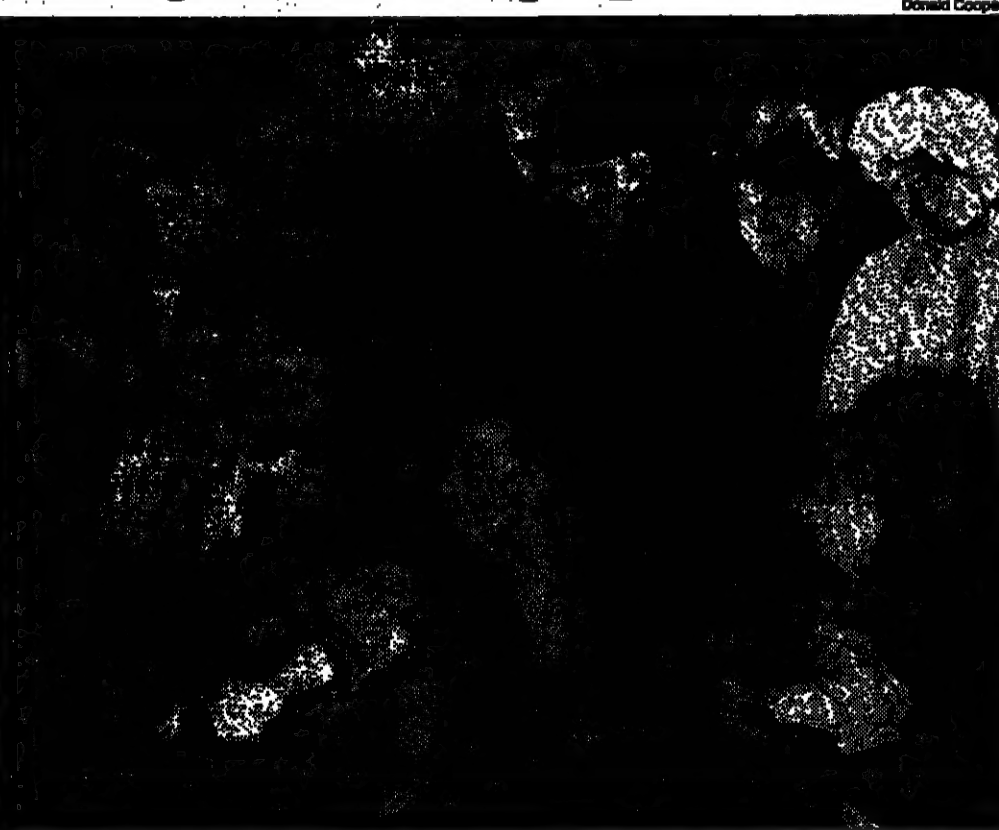
This, in short is not the kind of self-enclosed event that normally occupies the Western classical stage. It is an urgent re-examination of the arguments and axioms that fire Dostoevsky's characters, drawing its form and energy from the traditional Russian conviction that Art is important as a direct influence on human actions.

However, Lyubimov and Yuri Saniakin's version is totally unlike previous Russian novel adaptations that have played over here. Instead of chronological narrative, the action is split up and reordered in a fluent succession of episodic flashes, each one going straight to the central issue without any explanatory build-up.

Knowledge of the book is taken or granted. If supporting detail is needed it happens simultaneously, with the sight of a child (Bill by name) going to a prostitute to her room like a firm animal, or Katerina Ivanovna (Paola Dionisotti) leading her starving brood up from a vestige pit and across the stage in the midst of a related scene.

All the lighting is directional, most of it coming towards the front of the stage against a background of blackness that occasionally opens up for full-scale nightmare and the appearance of Lyubimov's central government clerk and within seconds he is on his knees facing the gates of paradise and striking straight to your ear drums. Likewise Veronica Roberts's Sonia, when Raskolnikov challenges her belief in God. As a non-believer, I can only record these as two heart-stopping moments.

As in all versions, the central thread is the hunter-hunted scene between Raskolnikov and Porfiry Marmeladov (Christopher Guiness) flanked by Sonia (Veronica Roberts) and Raskolnikov (Michael Pennington).



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Senseless
ICA

Mad scenes have always been the stuff of opera, from Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* singing "Home sweet home" to Berg's Wozzeck and Harrison Birtwistle's psychopathic Mr Punch. Lumiere and Son now add to the list with this highly ambitious collaboration between their regular writer David Gale and the Australian composer Frank Millward.

The central character, Wade, is a violent killer like Wozzeck and Punch, but in a Take Six suit. A secret agent, in fact. Sent to a Caribbean island to eliminate a couple spying on the local American base, he has an affair with a girl who deserts him for a brawny fellow-tourist. He flips, kills them both and returns to London, convinced that he has completed his mission.

MIS, of course, stick him straight in a clinic with high-powered, lady shrink and all the latest gadgets. Up to now the dialogue has been entirely spoken, the exchanges brief and even banal, the music confined to a background or a linking role. Now, in his madness, he identifies his doctor as Elizabeth I, founding mother of British espionage.

On sweeps Gloriana to the strains of a horribly drenched galliard while the text explodes in a sustained riot of manic wordplay. "The two tourists" appears, renamed Romaine Pope (clearly a reference to another "scarlet whore" in the hated Vatican) and Leonard, who produces the image of Leo the menacing Virgin, the Virgin Queen. Ceremonially pricked by the royal applier and invested in a beard, Wade clearly progresses from the hypodermic to the straitjacket. The last Elizabethan echo is numerology, closing the play with his apocalyptic visions

of Revelation and the number of the Beast.

Mr Gale's style is off-puttingly flashy and self-conscious - "Mr Visage, the Q is most impressed by your produce, to our shadows you add a rayon" - but dumbly inventive, and gives an extraordinary picture of a disordered mind feverishly verbalizing and recycling remembered images. But inevitably, very little is audible. A words-music synthesis should be able to achieve anything, but practical limitations clip its wings; the initial impact of *Punch and Judy* is blunted for just this reason.

Mr Millward's music is not to blame, being lightly scored: a band of four, doubling strings, keyboards, percussion and flugelhorn. It embraces its chances to be eerie, witty or lyrical but really striking passages are few: one investiture ensemble, accompanied by piano trio, is a delicious, dreamy jungle of sinuous vocal and instrumental lines. The *aria* bits are beautiful without seeming necessary, but Jeanine Osborne (Elizabeth) and Heather Keens (Romaine) sing them gloriously.

Five of the cast are masterful singing actors; the sixth, Trevor Stuart (Wade) has to sustain his huge role on acting alone, combining a trim accountant's looks with ominous determination. It is an impressive performance but he hardly seems a man who would mutilate a corpse; and from interviews it seems that the company's purpose is more forcible condemnation of the spy cult (even, who knows, our present Queen Elizabeth's network) than emerges here.

Staged mainly on a zodiac-painted cloth with slide-screens added, Hilary Wainale's production is simple; whether you find them irritating or (like me) fascinating, the complexities have already been sufficient.

Anthony Masters

Television

Enervating imagery

You can do almost anything with a line, as Walt Disney demonstrated, and taking a line for a walk (Channel 4) was conceived as a "homage to Paul Klee" in which various images from his work were used as material for an animated sequence: birds turned into paving stones, and caterpillars into blackboards, Proteus and Edward Lear run riot. In fact everything turned into something else: it was very busy.

Although it was agreeable to watch, as most cartoons for some reason are, it was also a curiously enervating experience; what we saw was the creation of patterns without any underlying form, doodles rather than pictures, scales rather than music.

Lesley Keen was the animator, and the major part of her programme was devoted to her explanation of what she was trying to do. She is obviously talented and energetic, although I

was not convinced by her contrast between the "art film" (her own) and the "entertainment film" (most of the rest). The danger of distinguishing them in this way is that it gives the misleading impression that art is not, or cannot be, entertaining.

This documentary ought to have raised the question of how great a contribution computer technology can make to human creativity, rather than simply accepting it as an evident fact. Since Lesley Keen's film used a combination of computer and "hand crafted" material in such a way that they became indistinguishable, does this imply that human skills - in the area of visual display at least - are in some way diminished? Could Paul Klee have been replaced by a machine? Fortunately, he will never know. Unfortunately, we may.

Peter Ackroyd

The Lighthouse
Canongate Lodge

Cambridge University Opera Society are making their Edinburgh Fringe debut this year with a trilogy of work directed by John Bratherton: *Fidelia The Terrorist*, a new work by Terence Sinclair, and this week Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Lighthouse*.

The idea is to explore the several portrayals of imprisonment and claustrophobic interrelationships, and no better venue could surely be found and closer to the Royal Mile than the dank basement of Canongate Lodge, here, half an hour late commencing the event, three singers and 12 players bravely brought *The Lighthouse* back to Edinburgh where, three years ago, it had received its first professional performance.

This student production by Casper Henderson is thoughtful, committed and compelling, and proves that the work need not rely exclusively on virtuoso professional performance to make its effect. Under the direction of

Hilary Finch at the Edinburgh Festival

Orchestra of the
18th Century
Usher Hall

Christopher Roberts, the band is not yet always tidy or pungent; yet in keeping alert watch on three sides of a tiny square space its sounds creep in chillingly like the tendrils of the sea-death or the maw of the Imagined Beast.

Equal demands are made of the singers, and these are young, inexperienced voices; yet the cold anger of Arthur (Charles Gibbs), the shrewd viciousness of Blazes (John Davies), a particularly versatile baritone) and the simious, sensuous tenor of Simon Burridge's Sandy make memorable vignettes of the three keepers. Just as details of eye, hand and body, particularly effective in making, convincing the work's potentially melodramatic climax, are used to point the score's own psychological intricacies, so the inventive use of the space with Charles Brennan's careful lighting points to its drama. The side steps become those of the lighthouse itself, and later serve tellingly to isolate Arthur and his visionary rhetoric. The little table becomes a shield for the advancing triangle of men deftly replaced by three swirling searchlight "eyes" as the doomed keepers of 1900 turn back to us and to the present.

Drummers, I am sure frequently feel taken for granted; yet it is not charity that causes me to single out the timpanist of Francis Bruggen's two-year-old Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century.

His keenly musical playing in their Wednesday evening concert of Rameau and Mozart on original instruments was certainly memorable in its own right. But it also epitomized this band's characteristic determination never to allow themselves to be bearing the heavy burden of authenticity, but rather to bend with defective spontaneity to the thinnest whims and perceptions of Mr Bruggen's abundantly imaginative musicality.

Mr Bruggen is not content to let the strident string tones, the pungent woodwind and querulous brass speak for themselves. Nor does he bore us with the didactic display of his musicalological learning. Mozart's Symphony No 39 was an essay in delight; in the sheer joy of being able to

rediscover then recreate afresh the *raison d'être* for the minutest point of scoring, or the context and sensibility of each stage in the music's harmonic evolution.

At the centre of the evening, the orchestra's leader, Lucy van Dael took the viola and Daniel Stepper the violin as unusually self-effacing soloists in Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante K364. Although in the eloquent responsive as I have ever heard it, on the whole they took their part as points of focus in a brisk, transient sound world, catching and turning every fluctuation of its resonance.

There was little time for lingering, least of all where one most expected it: Mr Bruggen was a way of by-passing customary tired rubato and then opening little windows for ventilation at unexpected new viewpoints in a phrase or paragraph. This same wayward, yet constantly stylish approach honoured Rameau in his tercentenary month. The Suite from *Le temple de la Gloire* became a microcosm of Rameau's triplex imagination in the operatic ballet itself, with demon strings and piping wind mopping and moving over a graciously paced and ornamented texture.

BBCSO/Leinsdorf
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Whether Barok was entirely accurate when he told William Primrose that his Viola Concerto was complete in draft form we cannot at present know: one hopes he did not exaggerate. As much as Eiger about his Third Symphony. The solo part, played with commanding authority in Wednesday's Prom by Nobuko Imai, sounds indeed a finished piece of work from the glorious serenity of the central Adagio (in which the anguish of Barok's last string quartet begins to resolve itself) to the powerful scutterings of the final Allegro which return to the biting folk rhythms of Barok's earlier music.

It is the orchestral contribution, prepared like the whole work by Tibor Serly, which in its uniformity seems less characteristic of Barok. Perhaps that was only a reflection on the dullish support

Concert Giving the finish some polish

given to Miss Imai by the BBC Symphony Orchestra; the players sounded more challenged in the other accompanied work of the evening. Berg's luxuriant concert aria *Der Wein*. Here Heather Harper found an apt poise and beauty of tone; some of the singing sank under the orchestra (perhaps it was better captured on Radio 3), but phrases like the gorgeous descending tenth at the end of "Der Wein der Liebenden" were nicely turned.

The good news in this concert should perhaps have been Erich Leinsdorf's return to the orchestra after more than ten years. But on this occasion Leinsdorf's famed directness and precision seemed more than a little graceless at the start of the concert. Mozart's Symphony No 39 had been blunted by solid, slow rhythms; the sudden, effective repeat of the second half of the finale brought it to life.

Nicholas Kenyon

...a revelation...stunning...
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...marvellous...immensely
enjoyable...
...breathtaking magnificence...
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SPECTRUM

Curtain up on the impresarios

There are no conventional routes to becoming an impresario, as Raymond Gubbay, the concert promoter and Duncan Weldon, the theatrical producer, would agree. Both work in fields in which there is little room for rival contenders, and both operate almost entirely without subsidy, offering themselves to the harsh mercies of market forces.

The requirements, it seems, are a readiness to take commercial and artistic risks, an endless capacity for work, and an early start. Gubbay promoted his first concert in 1966, at the age of 20. It was a Gilbert and Sullivan evening at the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds, involving four singers and a piano. By 1968 he had mounted his first South Bank concert, a Donald Swann programme with poems by Benjamin and Tolkien set to music. Three years ago he donned a tin hat and toured the uncompleted Barbican Centre with its administrator Henry Wong, placing an early series of hookings in the concert hall, and today he promotes regular lunchtime concerts there, where audiences can hear an hour of symphonic music for £2 a head.

Weldon entered the theatre at the age of 12, working as a call-boy for three years in his home town of Southport. It was the beginning of the television age, and his passion was to see and to take autographs from such television celebrities as Vic Oliver when they came touring to his local theatre. Now he is the chairman and managing director of Triumph Apollo, one of the driving forces in world drama.

While the two men work in highly contrasting media, there are some illuminating parallels in their ascents.

The sound of music and success

Raymond Gubbay agrees there are similarities between himself and Duncan Weldon: "Well, for a start, we are both nice Jewish boys made good. There is a certain truth in this, but it needs qualifying. For while Weldon comes from an affluent middle-class family, albeit one which had precious little connexion with the performing arts, Gubbay has clawed his way up from modest Golders Green origins.

Still only 37, he is arguably the most successful promoter of popular classical music in the country, more so even than Victor Hochhauser, for whom he worked 19 years ago for a most informative "10 months, 28 days and 12 hours".

By the end of this year he will have presented more than 100 concerts in London at the Barbican Centre, of which there is no greater fan than he, and a similar number at centres such as the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Fairfield Hall, and in the provinces.

He readily admits that he and his wife are their own Joe Public, and that his childhood immersion in the Strauss/Vienna mode has greatly informed his professional judgments. His democratic tastes have won him not only the support of the public but the scepticism, occasionally manifesting itself as grudging acclaim, of the classical music establishment. Of the four London orchestras, the London Symphony appears the most embarrassed by his advance, for while their performances at the Barbican have had houses often no higher than 65 per cent capacity, 40 of Gubbay's first 50 concerts at the centre were sell-outs, the average turnout has been 90 per cent, and only three evenings have filled fewer than half the seats.

His simple but unassailable philosophy of "giving the people what they want to see" has brought him into a somewhat unlikely alliance with Tony Banks, chairman of the Greater London Council's art and recreation committee. After all, Gubbay himself is a "... go on, say it. A successful capitalist", while Banks is a "... that's right, one of Red Ken's bunch". Yet compare these two credos, the first set out by Banks in a recent letter to *The Times*, and the second by Gubbay.

Banks: "The civic leaders who brought these great (London concert) halls into being with public money wanted them to have excellent standards, but would not want to see them half empty as they are now. There must be much better marketing of concerts so that they compete strongly with going to the cinema and theatre, going out to dinner or staying at home with hi-fi or video."

Gubbay: "From the programmes which I mount, people do look at what else is going on in the concert hall. There is a sort of cross-fertilization. If they come along to mine, maybe they'll go to someone else's and if they go to someone else's maybe they'll come along to mine."

There is an obvious temptation to say that Gubbay's shamelessly populist format is in danger of lowering standards and of installing wallpaper music in what should be conservatories of high seriousness and - the inevitable word - "excellence". True, he has marketed, with staggering success, a number of *Magic of Vienna* programmes, a Rodgers and Hammerstein evening, a Joshua Rifkin concert of Scott Joplin rags, as well as presenting a notable tourist draw, *London: Historic City in Film*, and the newly restored epic movie *Napoleon*, complete with orchestral accompaniment. True, his brochures verge on the



Raymond Gubbay: nice Jewish boy made good. Duncan Weldon: work, work and more work

brush, in conventional concert hall terms, with their circled RG logos and immediately identifiable house style. Yet a closer perusal of the programmes reveals a range of performers in which Harry Rabinowitz cohabits with Richard Hickox, G and S with Mozart, Rifkin with Beethoven. Massed Guards with the Philharmonia.

"It is true that I have created my own following over the years," says Gubbay, "and that I have built up what you might call a brand image ... yes, of course I've had my failures. I suppose the most recent example was when I promoted a concert performance of *The Gondoliers*, which, I agree, doesn't sound particularly original. I got hold of Richard Hickox, who brought his favourite singers. It was a fantastic line-up. In years to come, people will look at that programme and say: 'How could they have afforded that group of singers?' It was a fantastically good performance. It should have been recorded and kept for posterity. But nobody came. We had just 600 people, I think. OK, so I learnt. If people don't want to come, they won't, so we won't do anything like that again."

For the most part, however, Gubbay gets it right. Despite the basic rental of £1,000 a night for the Barbican, plus 12½ per cent of the takings, plus fees that range between a few hundred and several thousands of pounds for the top performers, plus the overheads of his four-strong operation in Tottenham Court Road, he still makes a profit which he describes, with a gleam of laughter that sounds remarkably like euphemism, as "reasonable". Then he adds: "In commercial terms, what I do, to an outsider, is not particularly attractive or viable. I enjoy it because it's fun, and because I can earn my living this way."

As in Weldon's case, the formula must be matched in equal part by workaholicism, and there is never a Gubbay concert in London at which its instigator is not present, looking around, talking to the players, speculating on the social profile of his

punters and, of course, watching the seats fill up. Until the returns of the Barbican's own questionnaires come in during October, it is hard to categorize with any accuracy Gubbay's constituency. He knows that 52 per cent of his bookings are through credit card, but agrees that this could mean many things; he knows also that the Barbican bus, commuting from the centre to the main rail terminals, has twice as many passengers on his nights. But again, this could be confusing evidence. "It could be that my audiences come from the suburbs and beyond rather than from the centre, or that they are simply too mean to take a cab." Or both. The one certainty is that they come.

Working hard, playing hard

Duncan Weldon's love affair with the theatre began when he was a 12-year-old in Southport; 30 years later it remains a *grand passion* which consumes him for 17 hours of the day. Like Gubbay, he is at one of his shows nearly every night and, again like Gubbay, he has plenty to choose from since his company, Triumph Apollo, will by the end of the year have mounted no fewer than 40 productions.

Of that total, some 20 will have appeared in London, most of them having toured in the provinces first. Already this year Weldon has put on the Haymarket repertory season with *Heartbreak House*, *School for Scandal*, *Uncle Panya* and *Keen*. When Peter Ustinov's play *Beethoven's Tenth* goes to the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles, he is engineering an exchange involving Jack Lemmon and Charlton Heston. The list goes on and on. In



October Joan Plowright and Frank Finlay open in *The Cherry Orchard*, directed by Lindsay Anderson, again at the Haymarket. Beryl Reid in a new revue, *Danny La Rue* playing the female lead in *Hello Dolly*; and then the round of pantomimes, which still represent for Weldon one of the most rewarding forms of entertainment.

As with Gubbay, it is the eclecticism of his operation that pre-empted harsh criticism of his fiscal motivation. He too has had his flops - most recently the controversial *Great and Small* when in Manchester. As a producer in the unusual position of working almost entirely without "angels", he realizes that it is only the profits from box-office success that will finance the lean periods.

That "nice Jewish boy made good" tag of Gubbay's really applies to Weldon only if you accept that his father, in the best and worst of Jewish traditions, was not exactly supportive about the young Duncan's ambitions in the theatre.

"The family business was a chain of photographic shops, and my father said I could either join it or go into the theatre. But he said, if you go into the theatre you can piss off. Well, I wasn't going to become a roving vagabond with no means of income, so I joined the business."

Like many a Jewish son before him, he was worked harder by his father than were any of the other employees, but he also managed to make the link between his lot and his vocation by taking publicity photos for provincial theatres. In this way he became friendly with several actors, particularly David Kossoff. He was even asked by the actor to help wean his son Paul from his drug addiction. The effort failed, of course, and Paul died a few years later.

Weldon describes his early progress as a producer as "doing plays with David, then doing plays without David ... the rest of the story, you know". Well, not quite. We know that he employs more actors than the National Theatre and Royal Shakes-

peare Company combined, that his average expenditure on each production is £100,000 (four times that in the case of musicals), and that he now often gives work to the great names, the Richardsons, Harrisons and Morrisons, who were filling the theatre in Southport when he was a call-boy.

We know also that he enjoyed a fruitful association with Louis Michaels, the impresario and theatre chain owner. What we do not know is the formula for such growth. If you accept Weldon's analysis you must believe that the whole thing is based almost entirely on three things: work, work, and more work. Surely this is disingenuous; there must be something more, apart from the conspicuously good business head. Some talent, like Gubbay's for spotting a hole in the market and then conjuring up the appropriate plug?

It would seem not: Weldon may be a supplier of work and a filler of theatres, but he is not an initiator like Gubbay; he has a faith in the drawing capacity of star actors, rather than in the value of an innovative repertoire. *Great and Small* notwithstanding. So we are back to the basic commodity of hard work. Weldon makes clawing motions in the air and says, with a sudden grimace: "Clawing your way up. That's what it is. Clawing and clawing."

The clawing begins at 7.00 each morning when he receives what he calls "my alarm call". In fact it comes from the agent Richard Stone, who stays talking for half an hour about business and clients, six mornings a week. "Richard is a close friend, though. He tells me I'm the only person he knows who gets started as early as that, so he can get me out of the way for the day."

Weldon works in Waldorf Chambers, high above the Aldwych, in what used to be Ivor Novello's flat. His own office is the old music room, and his desk stands where the grand piano used to be. Through the door is the bedroom where the composer died in 1951. On the walls of the passage are the posters of Weldon's productions, stretching back into the 1960s.

"Hard work," he says. "The fact is that I am in love with the theatre, and I find the quiet days harder than the busy ones. Whatever success I may have had I owe to the fact that I am quite simply ready to put in more hours than anybody else. In this business you can't hope to put in nine-to-five hours five days a week and expect to make a go of it."

It is hardly surprising that Weldon regards theatrical subsidy as a mixed blessing. "Don't get me wrong. I am not against it. I simply believe that it carries the danger of making the recipient lazy. If I do a show, it is either my own or my friends' money. He has little time for subsidized companies who complain about going through a lean time, then put on 'an obscure, 12-set, 30-hand play'."

Weldon stresses that his profits are not colossal, and that anyway the theatre is not a profession which attracts aspiring money-makers. Which takes him back again to his call-boy times: "In those days I made £1 a week, and everything I got paid was total profit. I wish I made a £1 profit these days." Dramatic licence, perhaps.

Alan Franks

moreover...
Miles Kington

Have we tried the 1948 file?

Roy Scheider (an actor) was sounding off in Monday's *Film 33* about our lack of privacy and how now helicopters could peer in at our windows and find out what the CIA and FBI didn't already know. This, by an extraordinary coincidence, was the message of a film called *Blue Thunder* which he has just completed. Things were getting more and more like - here Scheider paused to think of a crushing simile - 1984! Barry Norman, back to his best waspish form, told us that he had searched the film high and low for a message and found only helicopters shooting each other down, in the aerial equivalent of car chases.

For my part, I am convinced that things are getting more and more like 1984, and that since we are now in the second half of 1983 it would be foolish to expect anything else. Whatever else happens in January I will see the start of 1984. There's nothing we can do about it. If we were really worried, we would have done something by now; just as people living in Flat 13 often rename it 12a, we could easily have agreed that next year was 1983a or gone straight to 1985. Nothing like that has happened, and I'm sure it's because none of us is really scared of 1984.

Among the things that distinguish humans from other animals is the capacity to believe in two diametrically opposed facts at the same time. The example most often quoted is the way very few of us believe in astrology and yet most of us regularly read our stars. Again, we firmly believe that everything that appears on television is kept for posterity, yet most of us are convinced that the BBC wipes out everything of value - it is one of the myths of our time that no Hancock exists on film any more. (I guess the truth is somewhere in between: the BBC keeps a great deal, but can't find any of it.)

To come to the important point, everyone has a lingering belief that Big Brother has tabs on all of us, with our complete dossier ready to flick up on the computer read-out screen at a moment's notice. But this is rivalled by our belief that Big Brother can never find the relevant information when it is needed. We don't seem to have a record of that... we can't find your papers... your details seem to have gone missing... can we take the information again, please? Either Big Brother is all-seeing, or he isn't.

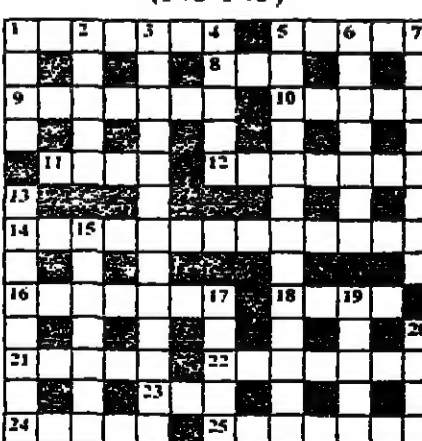
As luck would have it, Roy Scheider was preceded on the screen by the director of *Blue Thunder*, who said that helicopters were in order to work with, as it was impossible to get them to do the right thing. I think the message here is that if you see a helicopter apparently peering through your window, it is actually desperately struggling to keep aloft and on course, and hasn't got much spare time to spy on you. Personally, I have always hoped and prayed that Big Brother keeps tabs on my phone calls and correspondence, as I need all the help I can get with it, but I'm afraid that, if all-seeing, he is probably short-sighted and can't find his specs.

Years ago, when I was young and had spare time, I entered a *Private Eye* contest to get a fake letter in *The Times*. I succeeded, using a false name and address. In the weeks that followed, I got a fair bit of correspondence addressed to that fictional person: 24-hour plumbers, flat-clearing services, appeal funds and a vicar in South London looking for jumble.

Under that false name I had entered a new existence on Big Brother's files. And it has started to happen again in the past few weeks, when I have got mail from *Newsweek* magazine, the *Old Vic* and other places, addressed to Miles Kington. Somehow I have got on to a Big Brother dossier with my names reversed, and a new person has sprung to life, someone who goes to the Old Vic and reads American weeklies. He's welcome. I don't think I could read "the best-informed weekly in the world" if I wasn't even informed of my correct name.

No, I'm not particularly scared of 1984. For every one time I hear the cry: "How did they get hold of this information?", I hear ten people thundering: "Why didn't the authorities know about this - surely they must have been aware...?" No, the only thing that worries me is that very soon we are going to have to find a completely new phrase for 1984. Roy Scheider is going to look pretty stupid when he is publicising his new film, in 1985 and says that things are getting more and more like 1984. Unless, of course, he means things are getting better.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 145)



- ACROSS**
- Theatre gallery (7)
 - Faux pas (5)
 - Climbing plant (3)
 - Collar band (7)
 - Music for nine (5)
 - Large animal (4)
 - Contested closely (7)
 - Crash neutraliser (5,3)
 - Graduate (7)
 - Aquarium fish (4)
 - Loyal follower (5)
 - Payment to ex-wife (7)
 - Whole amount (3)
 - Footways (5)
 - Crushing reason (5,4)
- DOWN**
- Tie up (4)
 - Riches (5)
 - Frankness (13)
 - Produce (5)
 - Women's doctor (5)
 - Admiration society (7,3,4)
 - Embryonic outer (5,3)
 - Edible mollusc (8)
 - Wealthy (7)
 - Brand (5)
 - Nipples (5)
 - Church song (4)

SOLUTION TO No 144

ACROSS: 1 Speedo 5 Eccle 8 Pax 9 Nosh up 10 Archil 11 Jowl 12 Deirius 13 Pennon 15 Cutlet 17 Film 18 Pop 20 Army 22 Opener 23 Outlaw 24 VDU 25 Gestis 26 Surety

DOWN: 2 Photo 3 Echelon 4 Oppidan 5 Evalt 6 Cacti 7 Tribune 14 Eclipse 15 Copious 16 Treator 18 Punks 19 Larva 21 Meant

Price-winning Concise Crossword tomorrow

Barbara Gamarekian learns what US presidents talk about in the barber's chair

The man who knows the heads of state

Washington To a small, inconspicuous barber's shop in the lower lobby of the Sheraton-Carlton hotel, a block from the White House, comes a parade of Cabinet secretaries, top-level White House personnel and members of Congress. The walls are lined with personally inscribed photographs of the clientele, and the names tell the tale: Reagan, Regan, Shultz, Haig, Weinberger, Erlichman, Nixon, Meese, Baker, Bush, Ford, Rockefeller, Kissinger, Deaver.

"To Ma Pitts, with thanks for keeping me neat and trim," wrote Donald T. Regan, the Secretary of the Treasury.

"To my friend Milt with warm, best wishes - Al," wrote the former Secretary of State, Alexander M. Haig Jr.

The telephone rings. It is the office of Secretary of State George P. Shultz, cancelling an appointment because of the downing of a South Korean jetliner by a Soviet fighter plane.

The lure for these famous customers is Milton H. Pitts, a rosy-faced man who wears his own silver mane in a softly swept-back pompadour. He has been the White House barber for three Republican presidents - Nixon, Ford and Regan - and is now in what Washingtonians like to call private practice.

Vice-President Bush has been a customer for a dozen years. "In fact, the day he announced his candidacy for the presidency, I cut his hair," Mr Pitts recalled.

Most of his customers, he said, reveal no great state secrets but are always ready for small talk. But Kissinger is the type of fellow who is always reading, he said, and Gerry Ford - he was a very friendly, informal man, but he wasn't much for talk; he always had something to read.

"As for Regan, we talk about old movies and old stuff like that," said Pitts. "He's a very warm person. I don't see why these women don't like him."

It was back in the early days of the Nixon presidency, he recalls, that a limousine pulled up to his shop, then situated on Wisconsin Avenue, and Alexander P. Butterfield, a White House aide, walked in. He was interviewing candidates for the job of White House barber.

"I told him I felt honoured, that I had even voted for Mr Nixon, but to this day I don't know how I came to their attention," Mr Pitts declared.

Several weeks later, as he was participating in a barber and beauty show at a local hotel - uncordially dressed, he recalled, in blue suede shoes, a grey suit, pink shirt and a bow-tie - a telephone call summoned him to the White House: "The president wants to see you at noon."

Assuming that the new president was of a conservative bent, Mr Pitts made a hurried trip to his Chevy Chase home and changed into a dark blue suit, white shirt and dark tie. Within the hour, he was at the White House.

"President Nixon, whom I had never met before, came in. He was wearing a red sports jacket, grey trousers, blue shirt and bow tie. I cut his hair in 18 minutes."

In the Nixon and Ford years Mr Pitts spent each Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am until 7 pm at the White House, in a small room set up as a barber's in the basement of the West Wing. His customers, whom he charged his regular \$15 fee, were Cabinet officers and members of the senior White House staff.

The Carter White House years were lean ones for Mr Pitts in terms of White House access. President Carter chose to have his wife's hairdresser trim his locks in the privacy of the family quarters and Mr Pitts decided that if the man at the top was not going to use his services, he would move on. However, old White House customers such as Henry A. Kissinger, William Safire and William Simon continued to visit him at his unisex hairstylist's at the Sheraton.

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FRIDAY PAGE

TALKBACK

Slimming danger

From Dr William Parry-Jones, The Warneford Hospital, Warneford Lane, Headington, Oxford.

The medical significance of the fashions introduced in the sixties by Barbara Hulanicki, featured recently in Spectrum (August 15) cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed.

The era of the Twiggy phenomenon and the fashion industry's remorseless preoccupation with slimmest has coincided with an unprecedented increase in the prevalence of eating disorders in teenage girls and young women. Anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa are serious disorders with far reaching physical, emotional and social consequences and they can make life a misery for the victims and their families. Their treatment poses a major challenge to medical services and self help organizations. While many questions about these disorders remain unanswered, there is widespread agreement that the social pressure on women to be slim is one of the major causative factors.

The "classic Billa doll" and the "beautiful skinny people" may have been a "designer's dream", but the quest for an unrealistic and unattainable ideal has turned into a secret nightmare for thousands of women.

Still in fear

From a reader in south-west London

As one of those "battered wives" we hear so much about, I would like to put another side of the access rights controversy.

For years I was married to a very violent man until I finally escaped with my two sons to a Woman's Aid refuge. In due course I obtained various injunctions, custody orders and my decrees. Because I feel that my sons had a right to see him I did not fight the access order. I am now committed, for the next 10 years, to making sure that the children are at a certain place at a certain time three Sundays a month.

What this means is that I can never be free of him. He will always know where I am, what I do, whom I see and who visits me. He questions the children about this all the time.

I lost my home and all my possessions (my fear of reprisal outweighed everything else), and I can hardly be said to have gained my freedom or even peace of mind. Having lived in fear of this man for years I find I am still living in fear of him because the access rights demand that I have to do so.

Having a binary time, wish you were here

Computer holiday camps are the latest thing for youngsters who get more fun out of programming than building sand castles. Peta Levi finds out what goes on among the keyboard kids

There are now about two million computers in Britain - more per head of population than any other country. For increasing numbers of children, hooked on computing, the idea of a perfect holiday is not hours with buckets and spades but days spent gazing into television screens, playing computer games and writing computer programs, in computer holiday camps.

Computers have been called divorce makers. Husbands who become obsessed with computing tend to spend themselves away in a spare bedroom, ignoring their wives and families. Children can disappear for hours of solitary play with their sophisticated toys. Computers can become addictive.

Peter John, aged 13, from Northampton, explained: "Time flies and I get so involved in writing programs that it is difficult to even to turn round to look at a clock, so I usually set my alarm clock. When it goes, I stop." He has written a program which, he says, ensures he receives higher marks at maths and he thinks that programming has made him think more logically. "I didn't get the point of algebra and trigonometry until I got my computer," he said.

For children like Peter, traditional family holidays can seem dull. This year he was one of 55 young people (and three adults) who went to Computer Park '83 at Grendon Hall, Northamptonshire, run by Allen Carter, Director of the Machine Assisted Teaching Project at Nene College, Northampton, and Peter Tilsley, a microcomputer consultant.

Some computer holidays are simply an adventure or activities holiday plus up to two hours of computing a day. At Computer Park '83 the focus of the holiday was computing. Seventy computers (of 11 different makes) were available from 9am to 9pm and there were a number of other computer-related machines - robots, music synthesizers, a simulation of landing

and taking off a jumbo jet from Gatwick and a program for disco lights.

It is not a structured course and all activities were optional. One computer supervisor - their ages - ranging between 17 and 24 - was allotted to each group of five children. The mornings were given over to learning how to build a computer or a learning a new computer language. In the afternoon, despite the rival lure of sailing, shooting, archery and canoeing, most children preferred to stay on the computers. Evenings were devoted to computer demonstrations and workshops.

"Last year we found the children were skipping lunch and staying up until midnight," said Carter. "We reluctantly decided to lock the computer rooms over lunch and at 9pm to make sure they ate and got some fresh air." This year the supervisors' biggest problem was clearing the computer rooms at 9pm. It often took as long as an hour to prise the last children from their computers. At lunchtime, the dining room emptied within half an hour as children raced back to the machines.

The rise in computer interest among children can be measured by the demand for such holidays. Last year, Carter and Tilsley organized a single computer holiday of one week, which was oversubscribed. This year they arranged three one-week holidays; all were fully booked - attracting children

from as far away as Portugal and Nigeria - and more young children (aged between 10 and 12) took part. Almost all the children on the camp have their own computers at home.

The children were of mixed abilities and came from a wide range of backgrounds. However, the relative absence of girls was noticeable - only three (and one mother) out of 55. Carter said: "The maddening thing is that there is no difference in aptitude or ability, but what clearly is happening is that psychological and social pressures are operating the same way in computing as they did in engineering. Computing is not seen to be a thing for girls, which is absolute nonsense. It is also seen on a national level, because we are losing half the potential talent."

Perhaps it was not surprising that two of the girls at Computer Park '83, 14-year-old Natasha Franklin and her sister Camilla, aged 12, from Buckinghamshire, had not asked to go on the computer holiday. Unknown to them, their father had booked them on it. Natasha said: "He thought we ought to learn how to use a computer. We didn't know what to expect, but it was great fun. There are lots of activities and we even enjoyed the computing."

As with all beginners, they started with an intensive two-day course.

The third girl, 15-year-old Katie Godwin, had come for the second year running. Her mother, a secretary, came on her own the following



Wendy Hobb

Take a turnip Miss Smith

"The farmer wants a wife", according to the nursery rhyme. Perhaps. But a secretary? The two do not seem even metaphorically, to walk hand in hand. The world of mud and slurry, green gumboots, and late-night lambing seems far removed from that of polished desks and soft carpets, dictaphones, and typewriters.

But farming has changed, and so have secretaries. There is now an Institute of Agricultural Secretaries, and tomorrow it is to hold a seminar at North Oxfordshire Technical College, Banbury.

The moving spirit behind the institute is its present chairman, Jenny Barker, a small, energetic woman who started as a secretary with the Thames Water Authority, for which she still works, part time. But on most days, she drives around the Oxfordshire countryside, calling in at farms for a few hours at a time to help with the accounts and correspondence.

In the past 20 years farms have become not only much larger, but also far more complex operations and many farmers are not able to cope with the administrative as well as the physical work.

One of her part-time employers is Mr John Homewood who farms 600 acres of arable crops near Abingdon. The family also has a pig unit of 250 sows, and some 5,000 turkeys and geese which they fatten for the Christmas market.

"It was about a year and a half ago, when we put in the pig unit, that my son Geoffrey, decided he could not manage both that, and all the paperwork," Mr Homewood recalls. "We were introduced to Jenny through a friend, and now she is like one of the family."

To help farmers to determine the cost-effectiveness of various schemes, Jenny has bought her own computer. Some of its most popular uses are for wages, stock control, budgeting, and VAT returns.

"A farm secretary must have considerable technical knowledge of the mechanics of farming," she says. "Ideally, she should also be able to do practical jobs like driving a tractor, or helping with the milking."

"It is a real, and responsible career, not just a means of earning a bit of pin money."

John Young

On Monday

Modern Times meets the people who stand up to make you laugh

Looking into a child's heart

In 1980 heart disease, normally associated with middle age, obesity and high blood pressure, killed 1,378 children under 14 - almost 11 in every 100 deaths of children. The number is not only surprising but alarming. Research funds are paltry; even the British Heart Foundation gave only 3.7 per cent of its budget of £12,386,000 over the last five years to research in paediatric cardiology. The causes of congenital heart disease - heart defects from birth - are relatively unexplored.

"We do know that drugs like thalidomide and, to a much lesser extent, phenytoin, used against epilepsy, can cause damage. So can German measles contracted during pregnancy," said Professor Fergus Macartney, who holds the British Heart Foundation's Vandervell Chair of Paediatric Cardiology at the Institute of Child Health in London and is also an honorary consultant at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

"Sometimes problems are located in the electrical wiring of the heart in the sinoventricular junction, dividing upper chambers from lower," he said. "But till recently these problems were very difficult to sort out even with the most sophisticated methods."

Last year Great Ormond Street carried out open-heart operations on 250 children with congenital heart disease. About two-thirds of the children do very well with surgery and go on to lead normal, unrestricted lives. But a third either cannot be operated on or remain in ill health after surgery the professor said.

The case history of Alistair Grieve, aged 17, of South Woodham, Essex, illustrates the suffering of young heart patients in graphic terms.

Alistair, who is an advertising



The Grieves - Doreen, Elliot, Neil, Jan Tom and Alistair

student, now appears alert, friendly and energetic. He is 5ft 10in, and weighs only eight and a half stone. A thick scar runs from his neck to navel, testimony to three open-heart operations, the first at the age of three months.

He weighed less than 6lb at birth in 1966, and soon lost weight, turning grey and refusing feeds: he just slept. The family doctor diagnosed mucus on the chest, but his mother Doreen and the health visitor sought a second opinion from the paediatric consultant at Whipps Cross Hospital in Leytonsstone.

Within days Alistair was operated on to bind the pulmonary artery which was spilling blood. After four months he was discharged weighing 6lb; he was so fragile that his mother was frightened to touch him.

The operation retarded him in feeding himself and walking, which he only managed at 18 months. Drugs

and check-ups became a way of life and if he cut himself he was given antibiotics to prevent blood infection reaching the heart. He remained weak and confined mostly to a wheelchair. "It was humiliating because by the time I was four, children of my own age would sneer at me," Alistair said.

Normal school was unthinkable but at four and half he started at the Ethel Davis School for handicapped children at Goodmayes, Essex. There he was able to walk and push the others in their wheelchairs. "They were far worse off than I was," he said.

Alistair endured an operation lasting over four hours, which improved his circulation. But two years later Alistair was again very weak. One day as Mrs Grieve was lifting the 11-year-old boy out of bed he fell, banging his head against the bedside table. "There was no reaction," she said. "But downstairs he started twitching and going blank. Suddenly

he became paralyzed down his left side and lost all power of speech. I was horrified. I thought he'd suffered a stroke." The next day an abscess on the brain was removed at Great Ormond Street.

Alistair recovered enough to start at Caterham High Comprehensive School where he picked up two O levels and four CSEs. "But still he wasn't leading a normal life," said his father Tom Grieve, an electrician. "We had to watch him all the time for fear of something happening in the road with cars. Sometimes he'd sneak out to play with his brothers but after 10 minutes' running he'd be exhausted and have to spend the next two or three days sleeping it off in bed."

At 14, Alistair agreed to a risky third operation. The nine-hour by-pass surgery was a success and after three months' convalescence he learnt to swim and took up badminton and cricket.

"I feel good now," Alistair says. "I just hope it lasts for a while."

To discover the causes of congenital heart disease, Professor Macartney is building up a huge computer data base to improve diagnosis and decision-making.

It is already possible for doctors to get a picture of the heart, using electrocardiograms and computers, in 17 dimensional space - allowing them to get correct diagnoses three quarters of the time. Already within 16 weeks of life, this vital information enables doctors to decide in advance if surgery may be necessary.

"These developments give us clues," Professor Macartney said, "and that gives us hope for the future."

Paul Nathanson

How to keep baby sound asleep

Babies after delivery seem to miss the emotional security provided by the close embrace of a noisy womb. Old-style nannies rapped a shawl faintly round their charges to reproduce some of the constrictions, such as they had experienced during the previous 40 weeks. More modern child care experts in Japan are extending this principle by recording womb noises and then playing them back to the unsleeping infant in the cot.

Bandai Industries, Japanese toy makers, have cooperated with Dr Hajime Murooka, of the Nippon Medical School, to produce a customized integrated circuit. They claim that after listening to the baby's charged microphone, four out of five infants drifted off to sleep, usually within minutes. The manufacturers suggest that this method is so consistently effective that the failure may be a pointer to early deafness.

The system has been tried with success at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield: earlier experiments with different recordings at King's College in London were not so encouraging. The machines are now to be made available for testing in private homes.

Soon, it is hoped, godparents will be able to give a teddy bear which makes a noise more useful than the usual squeak so that their godchildren will be spared sleeping draughts and the parents sleeplessness.

Cat caution

Cats can be blamed for Sebastian Coe's lack of form on the running track just as surely as if he had tripped over one. Blood tests have shown that he is suffering from a cat-borne disease,

MEDICAL BRIEFING

acquired toxoplasmosis; apparently he has it in the lymphatic, so-called mild, form which has similar symptoms to glandular fever, enlarged lymph glands, muscle pains, a temperature, and a general feeling of being vaguely unwell. Recovery is slow, it sometimes becomes chronic, and can, in susceptible people with lowered resistance, occasionally occur in an acute form.

Although all animals can be infected by toxoplasmosis, it is only in the cat's gut that the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* reproduces; the oocysts form there are passed in the cat's faeces, which can then contaminate badly stored food, or poorly washed hands.

Serious consequences can follow an infection during pregnancy: blood tests show that two or three of every 1,000 pregnant British women catch the disease. About 30 per cent of infected mothers transmit the organism to their unborn child, but fortunately only a tiny fraction of them are born with or later develop the clinical signs of congenital toxoplasmosis which can include disabling complications resulting from brain and eye disease. Even so it seems that this disease is responsible for one in every 500 severely mentally retarded children.

Contrary to reports, the disease is not rare, only rarely diagnosed. Careful studies with blood testing have shown that 1 per cent of the population is infected every year. The medical lessons are obvious. Cats should not be allowed in the kitchen, dining room or nursery, and their owners should wash their hands very carefully, if they have stroked the cat and intend to eat.

Thinking back

Mr Keith Carmichael, the Briton in an Arab jail who is suffering from a compression fracture of one of the bones in his spine, has severe pain spreading to the areas supplied by the nerves leaving the spinal column at the site of the fracture.

His publicized misfortune might help others to understand the association between injury or disease in the back with pain elsewhere in the body, for one of his complaints is of loin and groin pain.

Although patients are always ready to accept that sciatic pain may be due to spinal problems, they seem reluctant to believe that this mechanism can effect different levels of the spine and give rise to pain in other parts of the body. This point has been made by Mr E C Ashby, an orthopaedic surgeon, in a review of loin and groin pain in *Lancet*, a postgraduate medical journal.

Doctors can often demonstrate that the pain comes from the spine by showing that it is related to posture and movement. Loin and groin pain can cause such anxiety that patients find it hard to believe that it sometimes stems from back trouble and not always from sexual indiscretion.

Breathtaking

Over a million people in Britain wheeze, or have had attacks of wheezing, so that while an annual death rate of 1,500 from asthma poses an important problem for doctors, it represents only a remote

danger for any individual patient. Until the 1930s, it was mistakenly taught that asthma was never fatal, and this outdated lore still lingers in the layman's mind sometimes with lethal consequences.

Dr A E Tattersfield and Dr M J Cusley from Southampton University have published a paper in this month's *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, discussing the problems of sudden asthmatic death. Probably the commonest cause is too little treatment too late.

Analysis has shown that in many cases the apparently rapidly fatal attack has been preceded by days of progressively deteriorating lung function. Unfortunately, both patients and doctors are as bad at noticing this as they are at assessing the severity of an acute attack. Some patients not only underestimate the seriousness because they have become accustomed to the discomforts of breathlessness, but minimize their difficulties in an effort not to be a nuisance with their recurrent disability.

All doctors should, in Dr Tattersfield's view, supplement their clinical assessment with objective airflow estimations: it is a straightforward procedure, carried out with a simple instrument and is no more complex than taking blood pressure. The pulse rate, too, gives an indication of severity, a rate of over 130 being associated with a high risk of complications.

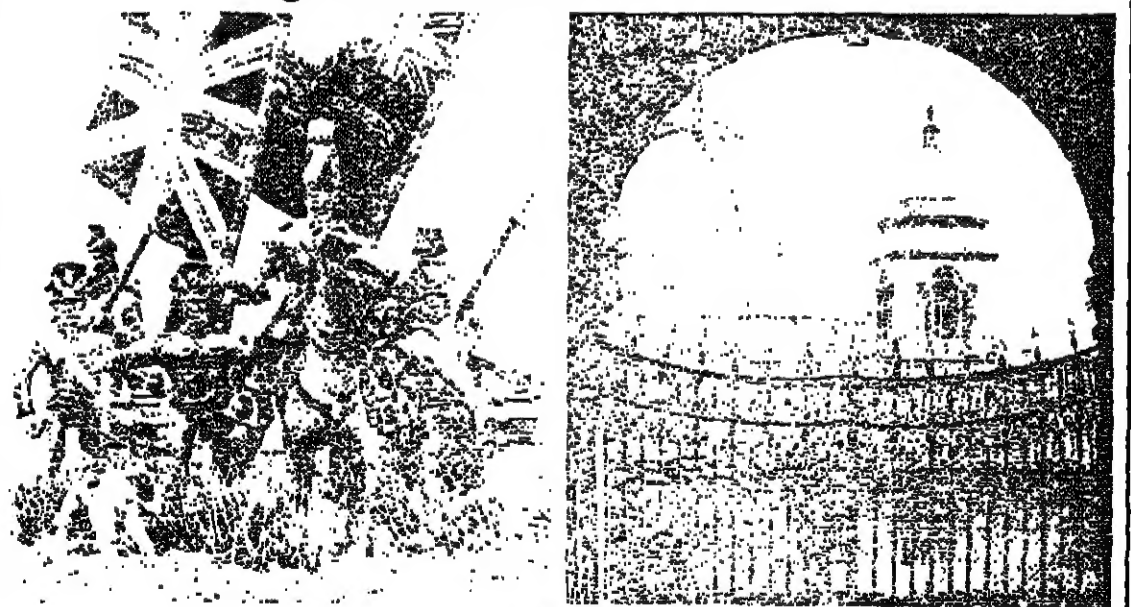
The doctors suggest that patients who are known to be bad at judging their own breathlessness should be taught to use a home respiratory flow meter so that they start to deteriorate they can immediately be prescribed life-saving oxygen, and adequate doses of steroids and anti-asthma inhalants.

Dr Thomas Stuttford
Medical Correspondent

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

War games: How Napoleon won Waterloo on the game-boards of Scarborough



Travel:

Getting back to grass roots in The Gambia; trekking through Tuscany; best-value fares to the antipodes

Paul Jennings

laments the laceration of Liverpool Street station
Roy Strong asks if we have too many Bank Holidays

Family Money:

Pensions, can early leavers expect a fair deal soon?

Sport:

Will Yorkshire win their first cricket title for 14 years?

PLUS

All the news from home and abroad; Values: Double-glazing, how to see through the sales talk; Drink: The Californian supergrapes; Collecting postcards; Paperbacks of the month; Bridge and Chess: Critics' choice of the coming week's events in the arts.

هكذا من الاصل



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

BRAZIL AND THE BANKS

The rescheduling of Third World debts seems to have become a continuous activity. No sooner is one set of negotiations completed than another is begun. The plain fact is that the international debt problem, despite many soothing words from central bankers, is still deteriorating. A new, although unexpected, dimension has been added by the suggestion from Mr Guy Huntrods, a director of Lloyds Bank International, that governments must intervene directly in the present Brazilian rescue attempt.

According to Mr Huntrods, "The public sector must play its part. The numbers are too big for the banking sector to handle on its own." But sheer size is not the only basis for deciding whether government support is appropriate. It is true that Brazil is the world's biggest debtor and that the organization of new loans from hundreds of geographically dispersed banks will prove very difficult. The trouble is that, as soon as banks believe that governments will bail out their most awkward customers, they have no incentive to put further money in, or to press these customers to behave more responsibly. If governments give financial aid to Brazil, they will be expected to give financial aid to nearly all of Latin America and much of Asia and Africa as well.

It has been claimed that, if

governments do not step in now, they will have to step in later. If the banks ended the charade and recognized that their Third World loans were bad, their capital bases would be wiped out. Government money would then have to be injected in order that the banks maintain their traditional operations in the industrial countries. On that argument, immediate action is expedient because it would avoid cost and disturbance at some future date.

The argument may be superficially cogent, but it does not establish a case for government intervention. It was the banks which made the loans in the first place. They did so in the expectation of profit. Such profit would have been for the benefit of shareholders. They now face losses instead and these also should be borne by shareholders.

If banks are to be relieved of commercial risks retrospectively, the character of the advanced market economies will undergo a radical alteration. Responsibility for mistakes will no longer rest with management and shareholders, but with politicians, bureaucrats and, in due course, taxpayers. There must be no dispute that if a bank lends money and loses it, the government does not have an obligation to help.

There may, nevertheless, be a justification for discreet government participation in debt nego-

tations. The ultimate cause of the crisis facing Brazil and its bankers is the gross irresponsibility of the country's financial policies. Last year its budget deficit amounted to over 15 per cent of its national income. Unable any longer to finance this deficit by external borrowing, the Brazilian government had to resort to the printing presses. Inflation, a politically convenient but socially disruptive tax-gatherer, accelerated. It has now reached the intolerable level of 150 per cent.

In these circumstances, bankers cannot realistically expect Brazil to service its debts. But the problem may be transitional. Brazil may be better placed in two or three years' time if the budget deficit has been eliminated. Budgetary restraint is indeed, the International Monetary Fund's central demand in the current negotiations. Western governments must be willing to support the IMF in its task, if necessary by further increases in its capital. This will give Brazil a breathing space to tidy up its financial position and also allow central banking authorities in the advanced countries to prepare for the worst eventuality, that Brazil will still be unable to pay up. Enforced bank mergers and management changes may, unfortunately, be as necessary on this occasion as they have been in previous financial crises.

IRELAND IN TWO PARTS

There was never much doubt about the outcome. The question put to the Irish people was taken to mean, Do you want the present legal ban on abortion to be made safe by an addendum to the constitution? Never mind whether the addition was otiose, the wording incompetent, the effect different from that intended, the procedure objectionable, and the whole thing divisive of the nation. The people had been asked about abortion. The moral majority was roused from its slumbers. And the moral majority in the Republic of Ireland is Catholic and conservative. So that is that.

The lively debate that the referendum stirred up went much wider than the question at issue. It had to, since there is a virtual consensus in that country that the law relating to abortion should be left where it is. There was much introspection about the sort of political society the Republic is or ought to be: should it embody and reflect the outlook of the numerically preponderant culture, part lay part clerical; or should it assume a more liberal ethos and put distance between church and state as is considered appropriate to plural societies?

A headcount gives the answer that has just been returned. The actual movement within Irish society gives a less conclusive answer. During the past fifteen years or so there has been noticeable enlargement of the room occupied by opinion and conduct that diverge from orthodoxy. Perhaps it is better described as a fragmentation of orthodoxy. It is not only a secular phenomenon. There has been a similar movement within the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland. So the relevant political argument is really about the

extent to which the forms and institutions of society should be changed in order to correspond with changes that have actually occurred or are occurring in the character of society.

That is the question that Dr FitzGerald sought to pose last time he was in office when he announced his "constitutional crusade". It is his misfortune, and partly his fault, that the first full engagement of the crusade should have been fought on terrain hopelessly disadvantageous to his cause. The outcome can only weaken his authority. It also makes something of a mockery of his policy towards Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile there are things to report from that part of the island too. Dr Paisley is in touch with a mole who has come up with the spine-chilling information that British and Irish civil servants are thrashing around looking for things to have cross-border cooperation about. This is in fulfilment of the programme agreed between the two prime ministers for the Anglo-Irish inter-governmental council. The rest of us have not been allowed to see the documents so we have only Dr Paisley's word for their tenor, which is, he says, to edge Northern Ireland out of the United Kingdom and into an all-Ireland republic.

One must be cautious of reading it that way. The Unionist imagination in these matters is as Shakespeare described it. "Or in the night, imagining some fear. How easy 'tis a bush supposed a bear". Particular difficulty is experienced in distinguishing functional cooperation between authorities in two parts of Ireland with distinct and uncompromised sovereignties from arrangements that impair the sovereignty of one part with

a view to having the other assimilate it.

The proposal that Unionists are specially suspicious of is completion of the Anglo-Irish council with a parliamentary tier including an element drawn from the Ulster Assembly. If the quid-pro quo were to be the SDLP's cooperation in the assembly, there would be advantages that Unionists ought to be prepared to examine. One advantage for them would be the far better prospect of a return to provincial government. "Power sharing" is the *ignis fatuus* of Westminster rule in Ulster. But it is not impossible for the political leaders of the two communities to act in common for the common good. Next week a delegation leaves Northern Ireland for the United States to drum up investment for the province. The four main constitutional parties of Northern Ireland are represented on it, two by their leaders - Dr Ian Paisley and Mr John Hume. The initiative owes nothing to Mr Prior and his assembly, which is no doubt why the parties have managed to tolerate each other's presence. It is far removed from anything touching on the constitutional status of Northern Ireland. Still, it shows that Ulster's political leaders do have some common loyalty. That loyalty is to the people and their welfare. It is a foundation upon which to build.

And a more propitious time for constructive politics may be approaching. The Royal Ulster Constabulary is having notable success in bringing terrorists to trial on the evidence of informers. Another crop of delinquents has just been announced. The impact of these successes is already felt in a reduction of gross terrorist crime.

TECHNOLOGY OF SOCIAL REFORM

When new technology hits an ancient industrial process, the process dies. When new technology assaults an ancient institution like the Civil Service, the institution does not perish. The government of the country must go on. It cannot be put out to international tender. But the impact can be traumatic. Whitehall is on the brink of the most dramatic change in bureaucratic practices since the Asquith administration introduced the first national insurance scheme and, in the words of Winston Churchill, its reforming President of the Board of Trade, brought in "the magic of averages to the aid of the millions".

A conference of policy analysts and administrators at York University this week began to map out some of the consequences. Clearly, bureaucratic processes involving financial transactions, a great deal of information, and frequent variation - like the tax and social security systems - are ripe for computerization. The inland Revenue's pay-as-you-earn will be automated from the end of 1987. It is a mammoth enterprise embracing 27 million taxpayers, more than one million employers and a national network of collection. It will cost £210 million to instal, but should save £50 million a year when operational.

Equally important, the flexi-

bility of the system will open up the possibility of substantial change in fiscal structure for the first time since the mid 1970s. Sad lessons from past essays into an earlier generation of new technology, like the Department of Transport's Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea, led the planners to insist on a minimum of external disruption if targets were to be met, though there have been over a thousand changes in requirement since 1980. Ministers therefore agreed on a moratorium on tax reform. Four years is a long time in politics. But, as Mr Steve Matheson, director of the PAYE project put it in York, ministers and civil servants could start planning post-1987 policy changes next week if they wished.

By coincidence the target year of the Cabinet's longer-term review of tax and spending happens to be 1986-87. If ministers so decided, new technology and new policy could be harmonized conveniently given careful forethought. There is a snag, though. Social security, the other side of the tax-benefits system (which in any fundamental rejigging of the welfare system would have to be reformed in tandem) will in the mid-1980s be moving into its own great technological breakthrough, which Sir Geoffrey Orton, Second Permanent Secretary at the

Department of Health and Social Security, compares in its complexity with the United States NASA enterprise in putting men into space. The DHSS new technology will not be operational until the mid-1990s. No doubt there will be a moratorium on reform in that field as well. Tack it on to the tax stop and you have, as Mr Michael O'Higgins, an adviser to the Commons Select Committee on Social Services, has noted, a block on reform lasting a quarter of a century.

The DHSS transformation will cost £1.6 billion and affect 50 million personal records. It also carries important access and privacy implications. Will for example, a DHSS client be able to see the VDT screen displaying the data that will determine his or her disbursement? Will new technology tend to inhumanize or dehumanize the 500 local social security offices or will it dehumanize them still further?

The message of the York conference is clear: Civil Service work can no longer be split into material fit for thinkers, doers or technicians. The new model official must be a bit of all three if the new technology is to be harnessed to the full. Beside that, the recent debate about the priority to be afforded policy-making and management pales into obsolescence.

On a twin track to deterrence

From Lord Mayhew
Sir, Though a strong supporter of the twin-track decision, I find your leader of September 5 ("Be firm, be sceptical") too negative.

Yes, the French and British deterrents are indeed conventionally regarded as "strategic" and "independent". But they are in fact marginally shorter in range than the SS20s and the British deterrent, though it can be recalled to independent command, has for years been assigned to Nato and is targeted and deployed by Secour (Supreme Allied Commander Europe). It is therefore unreasonable to insist that neither force should count at all in the European nuclear balance.

A useful precedent has been set in the Vienna negotiations for a conditional balance. Here, since the French force is independent, they are not formally "counted in", but a figure of 50,000 has been added to the Nato manpower total for the sake of reaching agreement. The same common sense should now be shown in Geneva. The twin-track decision has succeeded in squeezing some useful concessions from the Russians, and in terms of warheads the gap between the two sides is now less than 3 per cent of the total US/SS stockpile. The Russians can devastate the world without SS20s and we can devastate them without cruise or Pershing 2s.

We should not let the Korean airline outrage wreck the INF negotiations. It is time for a deal.

Yours etc,
MAYHEW,
House of Lords.

Dispute over Belize

From the Prime Minister of Belize
Sir, There are three facts to remember when referring to the article on Belize by Mr George Walden (August 12) and a letter in *The Times* of August 23.

Belize was never a part of Guatemala. It was a geographic entity within its existing borders at the time Guatemala declared its independence from Spain.

Belize desires a settlement of the unfounded claim without prejudice to its sovereignty and its territorial integrity. Belize understands, appreciates and thanks the people and Government of the United Kingdom for the British military presence as a factor of security and stability in a turbulent region.

Sincerely,
GEORGE PRICE,
Belmopan,
Cayo District,
Belize,
Central America,
September 1.

Indiana's tax laws

From the Governor of Indiana
Sir, Recently I read the article about US methods of unitary taxation that appeared in the July 1, 1983, issue of your paper. The article listed Indiana as a state which has adopted this method of taxation. This is only partially correct, and I would like to briefly explain Indiana's approach to this issue and how it actually benefits both domestic and foreign corporations.

Indiana law allows our Department of Revenue the discretion to give corporations doing business in our state two options. These corporations may choose either to be taxed on a unitary basis or to be taxed using the familiar allocation method. This method segregates for tax purposes a British corporation's income produced by its Indiana operations from its income produced elsewhere.

The only time the British corporation would not be allowed to exercise its option would be under circumstances where the company intentionally structured its sales in a manner that would artificially minimize or eliminate the subsidiary's Indiana tax liability. Under such circumstances, unitary taxation methods would be applied.

Indiana has recently committed over £120m for purposes of economic development. A portion of these funds has been targeted to the attraction of foreign investment. Indiana has a long-standing history of welcoming foreign investors with open arms. I am confident that Indiana is the best state in the Midwest of our country and one of the best states nationally for foreign companies - to conduct their US operations.

In view of this extensive monetary commitment to economic development and our pride in our business climate, I felt it was important to clarify the misrepresentation in your newspaper's article.

Sincerely,
ROBERT D. ORR,
Office of the Governor,
Indianapolis,
Indiana 46204-2797,
United States.

Church and politics

From the Very Reverend Monsignor George R. Leonard

Sir, Your front page headline, "Hume tells priests to get involved in politics" (September 8) was not supported by the report below it. Although Cardinal Hume was addressing the National Conference of Priests, his plea for greater participation in the life of the national community was, as your report indicated, addressed to Catholics generally. The Cardinal was not discussing the extent to which priests in particular should engage in activities of a political nature.

Your headline perhaps makes the common mistake of identifying the Church with the clergy.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE R. LEONARD,
Archbishop's House,
Westminster, SW1,
September 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsettled doubts in airliner incident

From Dr L. T. Weaver

Sir, The drastic act of apparently shooting down a Korean airliner should be taken as an indication of the fear the Russians have for the West.

Without wishing to condone their action in any way, faced with invasion of Soviet air space by an unresponsive aircraft set on a course towards a sensitive military area, only a country abnormally scared of the attack could respond in such a morally irresponsible and politically foolish way.

This sort of tragic event is the price we must pay for the extreme military tension that exists between East and West.

Yours sincerely,
L. T. WEAVER,
87 Osborne Avenue,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
Tyne and Wear,
September 3.

From Mr P. D'Arcy Hart

Sir, Your back page of September 6 presents questions on the Korean plane disaster. The last question skirts around an essential issue.

We have been given conversations between Soviet pilot(s) and ground control and monitored time reports gathered by the United States of the sequential events.

We are told that Tokyo lost the plane on radar and didn't know its location. But what was the radio of the Korean pilot doing all these hours of anxiety when he could see danger? Nothing? No distress call? No advice sought? Or was the radio out of order, or is the information critical - not yet released?

Cannot *The Times* find out, or is the Russian hysteria unfavourable to such an inquiry and publication?

Yours faithfully,
P. D'ARCY HART,
37 Belize Court, NW3,
September 7.

From the Reverend Claude Riches

Sir, Before we give ourselves up to unrestrained condemnation of the Russians, ought we not to ask ourselves whether we are entirely clear in our own minds what the attitude of British military authorities might be if an Argentinian plane, albeit one having the

appearance of a civilian aircraft, were to approach beyond the exclusion zone of the Falklands and refuse to obey or acknowledge all attempts made to divert it?

Yours faithfully,
CLAUDE RICHES,
The Rectory,
Saffron Walden, Essex,
September 7.

From Miss Mary E. Jelley

Sir, Why are not all bona fide passenger-carrying aircraft clearly marked with some conspicuous internationally recognised emblem?

It could be outlined at night with lights. If the Red Cross can do this why not devise something for innocent travellers?

Yours truly,
MARY E. JELLEY,
The Shepherd's Cottage,
Near Andover, Hampshire,
September 7.

From Mr Gerald Fleming

Sir, Would it not be in the urgent interest of safer air travel throughout the world, of historical truth, future peace and good will among men, if the governments of the United States, the USSR and Japan were to agree forthwith - concomitant with minimal security demands - to the simultaneous publication of those parts of existing tapes recording key moments prior to the destruction of the South Korean airliner?

Would not many say that this catastrophe points up in a very special way man's inhumanity to man in our cold and often dehumanising technical age?

Yours sincerely,
GERALD FLEMING,
55 Golders Gardens, NW11.

From Mr Alan H. Cauter

Sir, How can we conduct nuclear disarmament negotiations (other than meaningless ones) with a country that shoots down civil airliners?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN H. CAUTER,
6 Portland Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
Tyne and Wear,
September 5.

Pricing gas

From Mr Martin E. Simons

Sir, A most important aspect of the British Gas efficiency report, by Deloitte Haskins & Sells, published last August, is that it will force the Department of Energy and the British Gas Corporation to come to an accommodation of their differences which have not been helped by insular attitudes or the whims of successive governments.

In the area of gas pricing one is left with the impression that shorter and longer term needs of industry and of private customers have not been considered. The Department of Energy and the corporation favour high selling prices based on the cost of the most expensive gas - viz Norwegian Frigg field gas. It is of course that the report states: "We understand that UK sector oil companies require a post-tax return of 8-10 per cent, and that the corporation's 3 per cent return required in the 1978 White Paper 'may need reconstruction'."

Straw burning

From Dr M. A. Plint

Sir, The most recent authoritative study of the subject, published by the United States National Academy of Sciences last year, shows conclusively that, if present trends continue, the carbon dioxide content of the earth's atmosphere will double within 50 years.

The effects of this change are still non-proven, but there are strong theoretical reasons for believing that a massive modification to world climate, in the direction of increased temperatures, could result. This could possibly be the environmental problem facing the world by the middle of the next century.

The effect is a marginal one: the rate of carbon release into the atmosphere, primarily the result of

the burning of coal and oil, now outstrips the rate at which vegetation can remove this carbon. Any reduction is important.

The *Farmers Weekly* mentions a figure of five to six million tons of straw burnt each year. This represents the release of perhaps eight million tons of carbon dioxide, some 2 per cent of total emissions.

Two per cent may not sound very much, but it is the excess that counts, and this is the only substantial reduction that could be made, at little expense, by a simple piece of legislation.

This legislation should, I suggest, be put in hand without delay.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. PLINT,
3 Watermans Way,
Wargrave,
Berkshire,
September 1.

Peace in Latin America

From the Colombian Ambassador

Sir, It is impossible for me to overlook yesterday's article (September 5), "Colombia's own savage El Salvador", by your correspondent in Bogota, since it does not state the whole truth.

We Colombians are aware of our problems and of our shortcomings and it does not make us feel uncomfortable if these things are discussed and analysed abroad. But it would be preferable if, at the same time, the public were also informed of our efforts to solve and overcome them.

The violence still afflicting some regions hurts us, but we are endeavouring, to the best of our ability and in good faith, to eradicate the causes which might have given rise to the same. Last year, the National Congress approved the most comprehensive amnesty law in our history. President Betancur was not alien to this statute. On the contrary, he supported and encouraged it from the beginning by unequivocal messages and through his ministers.

Furthermore, the Government is carrying out a vast work of economic and social transformation to bring about a reasonable standard of living throughout the land and to eliminate extreme poverty. Political democracy is fully operational and we are anxious to achieve economic and social democracy as well.

The publication of the article to which I refer, emphasizing the tragic occurrence of the Magdalena Medio region, took place at the same time as the signing of the first contracts for a loan of \$100m involving the International Finance Corporation, the Midland Bank, Crédit Com-

mercial de France and the Industrial Bank for Developing Countries, of Denmark, to assist private Colombian industrialists to construct a new cement factory, precisely in that Magdalena Medio region.

We 28,500,000 Colombians hope to ensure our own self-sufficient development. We are well aware of the disturbances brought about by 3,000 or 4,000 members of the guerrillas. Nevertheless, we do not give up hope that we might manage to persuade them of the advantages of returning to civil life in order to work with the rest of us within the norms laid down by our basic law, the National Constitution.

All of us, headed by President Betancur, are conscious of the professional and moral obligations of our armed forces and of their commitment to the principles of democracy. We rely on them to defend our sovereignty as well as to guarantee the order which will enable the desired transformations to take place and also accelerate them.

All these measures confer moral authority on my country for her President, Dr Betancur, together with his colleagues of Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, to take part in the Contadora Group with the aim of achieving peace in tormented Central America. We do not stand aloof from the sufferings of our fellow Latin Americans and we are certain that their peace is also our peace. That is why we wish to help seek it in a civilized manner, through creative dialogue, without further violence which would precipitate irreversible chaos.

Yours faithfully,
AUGUSTO ESPINOSA,
Colombian Embassy,
3 Hans Crescent, SW1,
September 5.

Alliance in more than a name

From Mr Aubrey Jones

Sir, The decision taken by the SDP's National Committee against joint selection with the Liberals of candidates for the European elections is a significant step towards impeding an eventual merger of the two parties.

As a Conservative who, feeling that Mrs Thatcher's Government was betraying all that was best in the Conservative tradition, joined the Liberal Party before the SDP was born but who could equally well have joined the SDP had it been in being, I can only say, "I am saddened."

The tactical argument adduced for the decision is that the SDP must remain open to further defections from Labour. But are potential Labour defectors likely to join a party against which they recently fought in a general election? Is it not possible that they might be readier to join a party formed from a merger of the Liberals and the SDP but bearing a totally new name?

And what about the growing number of disaffected Conservatives shut out by Mrs Thatcher? They are unlikely to join either the SDP or the Liberals. They might just be prepared to join a party sprung from fusion.

The philosophical justification put forward for continuing separate identities for the Liberals and the SDP is that both are in favour of electoral reform, which would facilitate the appearance of several parties. That is true. But there will be no electoral reform without a change of government. Whether or not that takes place depends on the electorate.

And the electorate not unnatural, thinks in terms of the historical context - Government and Opposition, or Government and alternative Government.

The Liberals and the SDP are united in their hostility to the adversarial nature of the inherited political system. It is doubtful, however, whether the electorate has advanced to that point. How otherwise does one explain the plight of the Liberal Party over the last half century?

There are parts of the SDP's thinking which seem to rest on the assumption of power won - e.g. the regional organisation appropriate to a changed electoral system, less so the one we now have.

Power has first to be attained, and the attainment is likely to be easier with one party than two. Yours faithfully,
AUBREY JONES,
89 North End House,
Fitzjames Avenue, W14,
September 8.

Wedgwood's service

From Mr Christopher Wade

Sir, I write from the Queen Anne house in Hampstead mentioned in David Hughes's entertaining piece (September 3) about Wedgwood's dinner service for Catherine the Great.

According to Dr George Williamson, who among many other things was art adviser to J. Pierpont Morgan, one of the Wedgwood family visited Leningrad to enquire about the service and was assured that it no longer existed: the explanation was that over the years the Empress had thrown the lot at her servants' heads.

Can recent visitors to the Hermitage, please, confirm that the dinner set is still on display? Only one Russian Hampstead picture seems to have survived and we are anxious for more - and for a copy of Dr Williamson's famous catalogue.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER WADE,
Hon Curator,
The Hampstead Museum,
Burgh House,
New End Square, NW3,
September 5.

Mr Wesker's paradise

From Mr Robert Muller

Sir, Re Wesker v Levin (feature, August 30), Mr Wesker lives in a theatre playwright's paradise. Most novelists, who probably work even harder than playwrights, are never reviewed at all. Few TV dramatists ever see their work reviewed. (There are no TV drama critics.)

The theatre is given an importance by the press which cannot be justified either by its inherent quality or by readership demand.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MULLER,
2 Camden Square, NW1.

Iced bunkum

From Mr J. M. Adams

Sir, There is no need for Dr Couper (September 6) to be in doubt about the constituents of his ice cream. He can obtain, free, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, a most helpful booklet, called *Look at the Label*, which gives the meanings of all the "E" numbers.

From my copy, his ice cream contains lecithins, mono and diglycerides of fatty acids, carrageenan, locust bean gum, guar gum, tartrazine, carmoisine or azorubine and copper complexes of chlorophyll and chlorophyllins.

What could be simpler? Yours faithfully,
J. M. ADAMS,
6 Austen Road,
Guildford, Surrey,
September 6.

From Mr Peter Motley

Sir, Presumably the chocolate-flavoured E in Dr Couper's E322, E471, E (ad nauseam?) stands for "ersatz".

Yours faithfully,
PETER MOTLEY,
9 Aston Close,
Pangbourne,
Berkshire.

The Royal Air Force

The middle and late years of this decade will constitute one of the great pivotal periods in the history of the Royal Air Force. Last year it ceased to operate heavy strategic bombers, though a few of the V-bomber force, which entered service in the 1950s to carry Britain's independent deterrent, still linger on in other roles. And now a series of developments are in train which will update the RAF - a service still largely based on 1950s and 1960s technology - so as to meet the threats of the 1980s and 1990s.

These developments include:
 • The arrival in service in both Britain and West Germany of the Tornado GR-1 strike/interdictor aircraft. The first squadrons of these aircraft are already operating.
 • From about 1985/86 the arrival of the F2 air defence version of the Tornado.
 • The ground-based systems for the defence of British airspace - radar, command and control and communications systems - are being substantially renewed and these should be operational during 1986.
 • The introduction of the Nimrod Airborne Early Warning

aircraft, which will operate in conjunction with Nato's AWACS and with the ground radars. The combination of these three will mean that the radar coverage of the air space around the United Kingdom, to a distance of more than 1,000 miles, will be very greatly improved.

Partly as a result of the lessons learnt in the Falklands conflict, the RAF's capacity for in-flight refuelling is being greatly extended. This facility was already being enlarged before the Falklands crisis by the conversion of VC-10s to tankers, but under the pressure of events Vulcan bombers and Hercules transports were also rapidly converted, and since then the RAF has bought six TriStars, also to serve as tankers.

The Tornado strike/interdictor aircraft are recognized as being at present inadequately armed. But from about 1986 they will be equipped with two new and very advanced weapons: the JP-33 system for destroying enemy runways, and the British Aerospace/Marconi Alkali anti-radar missiles.

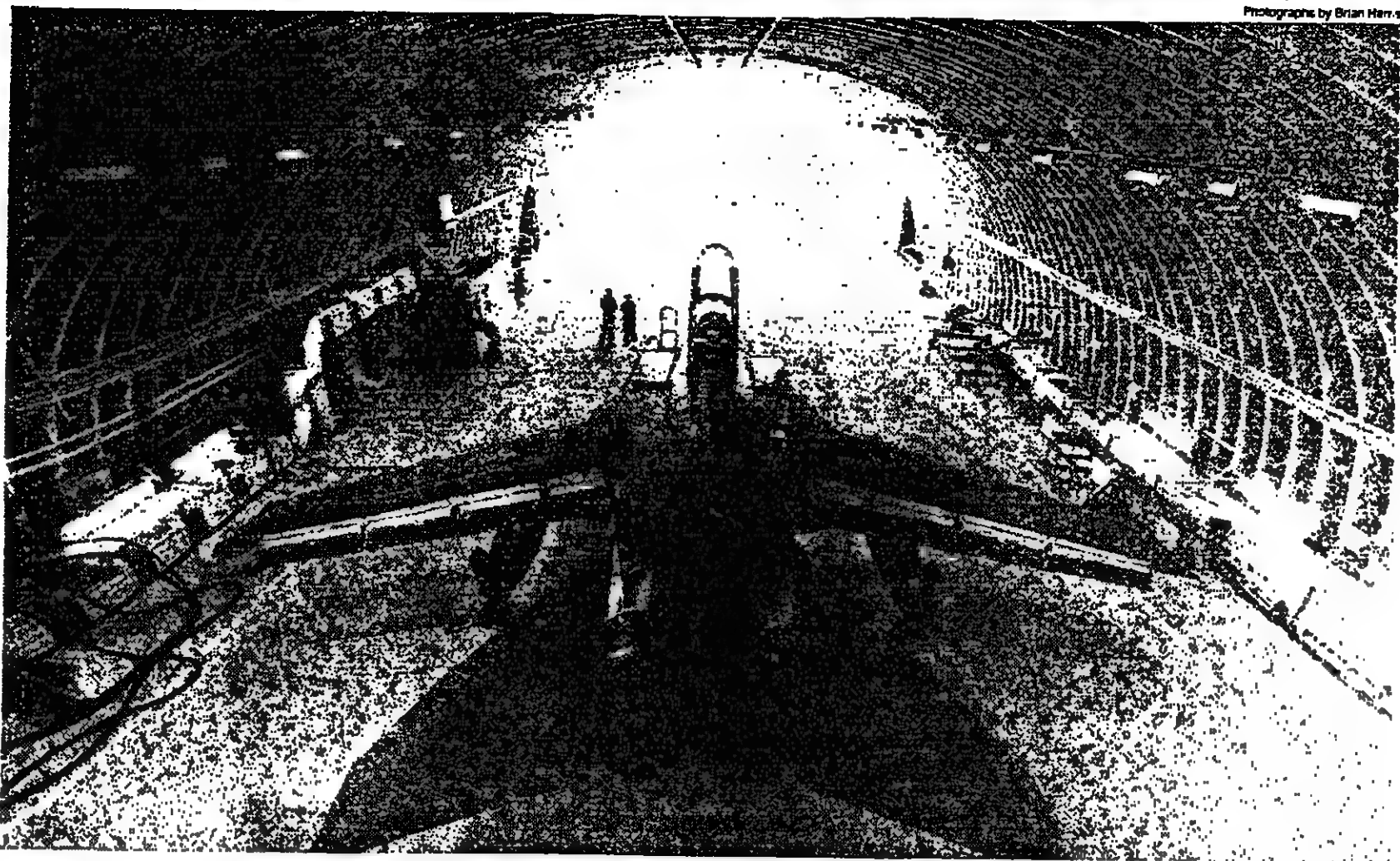
In the 1960s and 1970s the RAF was in the doldrums, constrained by inadequate resources and by changing assess-

ments of what its role should be. Throughout this period it was rationalizing its structure, a process which continues today with a merger imminent of No 1 Group, based at Bawtry, with No 38 Group, based at Upavon.

This process has seen the disappearance of the most famous commands in the history of the service, Fighter Command, Bomber Command, Coastal Command and many others have all disappeared. Today there are just three commands: Strike Command, Support Command and RAF Germany.

By the end of this year Strike, the dominant command, will have been reorganized into only three UK-based groups: No 1 covering strikes and air transport and offensive support operations, No 11 handling air defence, and No 18 covering maritime operations plus a headquarters operation in Cyprus.

Developments of this sort are reflected in the RAF's claim to be one of the most efficient air forces in the world, with one of the lowest manpower-to-aircraft ratios anywhere, and with a smaller proportion of the very highest ranks than either the Army or the Royal Navy.



A Tornado of 27 Squadron in a bomb-proof hangar at RAF Marham, Norfolk

Rodney Cowton, The Times Defence Correspondent, talks to Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, Chief of the Air Staff

Sir Keith, how do you see the state of the Royal Air Force today, and its capability to meet the threats made of it?

Sir Keith Williamson: I count myself very fortunate to take over as Chief of the Air Staff at the particular time I did because it is the very time that there is coming to fruition the largest re-equipment programme that the RAF has been involved in during my time in the air force, but perhaps the rapid post-Korean War expansion in the early 1950s when the Hunters and Swifts came in. The present programme, with the Tornado at its centre, is providing us with a giant leap forward in our capability, not, I might say, before time because the aircraft that the Tornado is replacing are old and certainly obsolescent and we needed something to take us into the 1980s and 1990s but that is now being done.

Tornado, the Airborne Early Warning Nimrod and the improved UK Air Defence Ground Environment all mean that our operational capability is as high as

I have known it, and this has coincided with an improvement in the morale of the people in the Service.

We have come up now a long way from what I regarded as a slough of depression that we were in in the mid-70s when there is no gainsaying that morale in all three Services was pretty low as a result of the 1974 defence review, and the poor pay and conditions in the Services existing at that time.

We had people queuing up to leave the Service, and we were actually having to stop them from going, and so we had a lot of reluctant officers and senior NCOs. We have come a long way since those days.

It would be surprising if we had not because there are three million unemployed in this country and we can be fairly choosy at the recruiting counter. And this has also had its effect on the people we have got in the Service, so that we can retain them. So I think both morale and professional competence are much higher than they have been for a long time.

It is an excellent coincidence that new equipment is coming in at a time when the quality of our personnel is very high and the morale of those people is very high. So I think the RAF at the moment is in very good shape indeed.

What general conclusions relating to the RAF would you draw from the Falklands conflict?

Sir Keith: I don't think there are any new lessons that we have extracted from the Falklands operation, but there are enormous numbers of old lessons that have been re-emphasized and confirmed.

Certainly the experience has made us shift the emphasis on to in-flight refuelling capability, both in terms of having tankers to give fuel and extending the capability of the majority of our aircraft to receive it. All our front-line fixed-wing aircraft for the future will have a capability to take on fuel.

The Falklands experience, combined I might say, with the experience of the Israeli air force in the Bekaa Valley, has, of course, also underlined what we

knew to be some of the shortcomings with our older aircraft - that we had inadequate electronic warfare and electronic counter-measures capability, and that we had inadequate chaff dispenser and decoy capability.

These are being rectified perhaps more quickly than they would have been if we had not had the Falklands experience, although they always appeared on our priority list. We have known about the deficiency but we have not had the money to fill the gap. We are now making sure it is patched in time.

But of course it is a complex business. It so happens that because we now have the airframes in the Tornado we are able to concentrate on the protective measures.

Until the Tornado came into service most of our energies and nearly all our money was concentrated on getting the Tornado into the air. But the John Nott defence review of 1981 in my view quite rightly laid emphasis on the need for improved weapons fits, and that was confirmed in the Falklands war. Many of the measures we are now taking were well in hand before the Falklands crisis.

For example, the JP-233 airfield denial weapon which has now been ordered in substantial numbers has been in the process of development for quite a long time. The Falklands experience

just underlined the importance of it and perhaps made the formal procuring of it that much easier.

How stretched is the RAF as a result of its deployment in the Falklands?

Sir Keith: Clearly when one moves resources that have been procured for the Nato role to another role it can only be done to the detriment of our ability to meet the Nato commitments. But having said that, we are taking steps to replace the equipment and people that are stationed in the Falklands, and by next year, for instance, we shall have the buy of the Phantom F-4s from the United States navy replacing those aircraft that are down in the Falklands, and they will be deployed in the defence of the UK.



Sir Keith Williamson: "Operational capability is as high as I have known it"

We are doing the same with additional buys of Rapier and helicopters, so in the long run the Falklands will not be a great burden to carry.

Just how important is the enhanced capability for in-flight refuelling going to be, not only in the context of the Falklands, but more generally in relation to the RAF's Nato commitments?

Sir Keith: The TriStars were bought really on the Falklands bill because of the complexity of organizing the Falklands air bridge, particularly with the relatively small fuel carriers like the Victor and the VC-10. But although they were bought for the Falklands commitment, they clearly have a tremendous capability to be used within the Nato scope and any other areas of activity. So it is a very useful enhancement of our capability.

In the context of a war in North Europe, would not air tankers be so vulnerable to attack as to quite drastically reduce their value?

Sir Keith: If you look at a map of the Warsaw Pact area you can devise in-flight refuelling brackets that would provide, for example, Tornado with a substantial amount of fuel in benign areas, at height, so that they could for instance attack airfields in the Kola Peninsula or penetrate through to Poland and western Russia.

And we, I think, demonstrated this capability by sending a Tornado from Honington in Suffolk to simulate an attack on Akrotiri in Cyprus and then return... It is a complex operation and it will require you to be able to operate your tankers with some confidence in areas which we do regard as benign, but there are limits to the range of Soviet fighters.

The air defences of the United Kingdom have been very weak for many years. How do you see the position now?

Sir Keith: What we are doing is raising our air defence capability from the very low level that was established after the 1957 defence review, when it was required only to meet the trip-wire threat. We have known ever since that we have not had enough fighters in this country. We have done a great deal within the very limited resources available to us to improve the number available. We have gone up from 60 Lightnings in the mid-1960s and we will have by the end of 1983 well over 120 air defence aircraft in the United Kingdom and West Germany. That does not include the aircraft we have in the Falklands, and we will also have the missile-carrying Hawks.

A lot of money is being spent on improving the ground facilities associated with the air defence of the UK. How big an advance will this represent?

Sir Keith: It is very considerable indeed... The sensors themselves will be very much more capable, much more resistant to electronic-counter measures. The command and control and communications system which will make use of the information the radars provide will be fast and flexible with elements of redundancy which will make sure that it cannot be taken out. So it is going to put us in a whole new ball game in the air defence business...

As a fighter pilot I am excited because I have known the shortcomings of our existing ground environment, although I don't want to sell that short. Our present radars are jolly good in peace-time. They are very well designed, but they are very static and very vulnerable. They are not backed by a fast digital data-link, and so there are many disadvantages to them, and we have been conscious of these for a very long time.

It is therefore very exciting to be reaching a situation where improvements are incorporated that we have been talking about for 20 years. The fact that it is coming in at the same time as the Nimrod Airborne Early Warning aircraft and the Tornado air defence variant means that really the air defence of the UK is going to be very much better based than it has been at any time in peace-time.

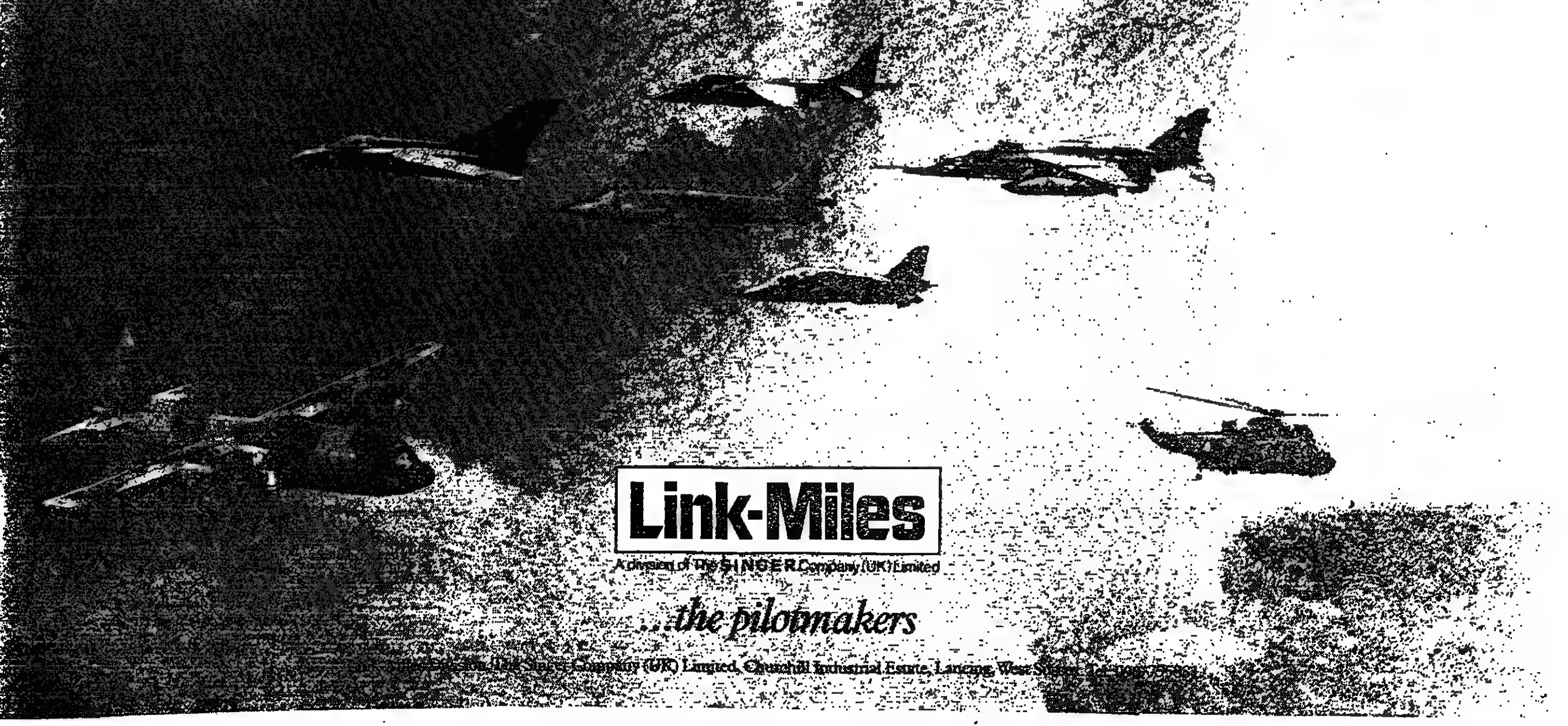
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ROYAL AIR FORCE

THE AIRCRAFT

Tornado follows the terrain

The Royal Air Force operates 30 different types of aircraft, both fixed and rotary-wing, but one of them, the Tornado bomber, is taking up a major proportion of the technical time and skill of the Service as it becomes operational in increasing numbers.

A complex aircraft with a variable-geometry wing and advanced electronics which enable it, among other things, to follow the terrain automatically to its target in the worst weather, the Tornado has been ordered in two main versions by the RAF. Some 70 of the GR.1 strike version, and

30 of the two-seat trainer, of 220 on order have entered service, and the first of 165 F2 interceptors will begin to go to the squadrons in 1985.

The Tornado, built jointly by the aerospace industries of Britain, West Germany, and Italy, has already taken over as Britain's main airborne nuclear deterrent, replacing the Vulcan V-bombers, now withdrawn from service, and are in future to be based in West Germany, superseding Buccaneers and Jaguars. F2s have been developed largely for the air defence of Great Britain, and are

to replace two of the four Phantom squadrons, and the two Lightning squadrons which carry out that task today.

The policy of maintaining the Falklands as a fortress is the other factor which is placing intense pressure on the RAF inventory. Not only does the service maintain the long supply bridge between Britain and the islands, by way of Ascension, necessitating an intensive refuelling operation on the way, but it maintains a squadron of Harriers, a squadron of Phantoms, and two helicopter squadrons in the

Falklands, plus anti-aircraft Rapier missile batteries. To make up for the loss of the Phantom squadron from the European scene, the RAF is buying 15 former United States Navy aircraft of this type for £33m.

A continuing part in Nato is played by the RAF with its Harrier force, of which there is a further 60 on order, due to begin arriving with the squadrons in 1986, Jaguars, Buccaneers and Phantoms. The debate on a replacement for all four types continues, with a vociferous lobby in favour of a second-generation Harrier which would combine vertical/short take-off and landing with supersonic flight. A significant step towards a successor for the more conventional types was the announcement at this year's Paris Air Show that the British Government has signed a contract with British Aerospace for the development and construction of a demonstrator fighter for the 1990s. The single proto-type will be based on BAe's plans for an agile combat aircraft incorporating a great deal of new technology, including composite materials, and with electrically-signalled controls replacing the traditional rods and wires.

In-flight refuelling is becoming an increasingly important role for the RAF, and the service has added considerably to its capability in this sector in recent months.

During the Falklands conflict in the summer of 1982, the tanker fleet of Victor K2s was hastily backed up by the conversion of 24 of 60 Hercules transports, six as tankers, and 16 as receivers. Six Vulcans are also fulfilling the tanker role, and in this year's defence White Paper it was announced that six Lockheed TriStar wide-bodied airliners were to be bought from British Airways for conversion to tankers, and that four of them would be given an additional freighter capability.

In July this year, the first of nine ex-airline VC-10s converted to in-flight refuellers was rolled out at the British Aerospace factory at Filton, Bristol, and a study is continuing of the possible conversion of further aircraft of this type to form a second squadron. The tanker fleet will be used not only to keep aircraft flying over long distances, as in the Falklands operation, but to enhance the duration of fighters on combat air patrol.

Maritime reconnaissance and search and rescue duties are carried out by the RAF with Nimrod SR.2s, and airborne early warning by a fleet of six ageing Shackletons. These are to be phased out as the RAF's new fleet of 11 Nimrod AEW-3s come into service. This version of the Nimrod will be packed with the most advanced radar and electronics enabling its crew to "see" long distances over the horizon



On the ground and in the cockpit: Tornado crews of 27 Squadron



and to give advance warning of any incoming enemy threat.

These are the sharp-end/fixing aircraft of the RAF, although they would be supplemented in time of war by 90 Hawk trainers fitted with Sidewinder air-to-air missiles. The Sidewinder continues to be one of the RAF's main weapons, together with the Sparrow, and its improved Skyflash version, to be carried by the Tornado air-defence version, and Phantoms. Within the past few weeks, the Government has placed a £300m fixed price

contract for the British Aerospace Dynamics Alarm anti-radar missile to be fitted initially to Tornado and Buccaneer aircraft, and later to the Hawk, Harrier, and Sea Harrier. Alarm was preferred over an American missile, the Texas Instruments AGM-88 Harm.

The main adversaries in time of conflict would be the latest aircraft types developed by the Soviet Union, the Backfire, Fencer, Flogger and Foxbat, in Nato code, some 800 of which are produced each year, according to

Western defence sources. The Tupolev Tu-22M Backfire B, in service with the Soviet long-range air force and naval air force, is the largest variable-geometry aircraft in operational service in the world, with a performance of twice the speed of sound at high altitude. It carries the AS-4/AS-6 stand-off missile, which has a range of 250 miles, and the aircraft's unrefuelled range is 4,500 miles. The Sukhoi Su-26 Fencer is also a swing-wing aircraft developed as a fighter-bomber for ground attack. It, too,

has a Mach 2 performance at altitude, and it can carry a weapons load of 10,000lb.

The Mikoyan MiG-23/27 Flogger, also swing-wing, is a multi-role combat aircraft and has demonstrated its ability to track and engage with radar targets flying below its own altitude. Foxbat - the MiG-25 - is a single-seat, long-range interceptor, with a dash performance of three times the speed of sound, and a ceiling of 100,000ft.

AIR DEFENCE

Developing non-nuclear deterrence

One of the weakest areas in Britain's military posture since the mid-1960s has been in the provision of air defence.

The trouble began in 1957 when the defence review foresaw air defence switching from manned aircraft to missiles. The existing P1 supersonic interceptor project was to be allowed to go ahead (and as the Lightning it became one of the mainstays of the RAF), but no further projects for new fighters would be authorized.

In the next 10 years or so, the number of fighter squadrons fell from 55, including auxiliary squadrons, to five. But then came a change in Nato doctrine from the policy of massive nuclear retaliation to one of flexible response, and with it came the perception that effective air defences were necessary, and that Britain did not possess them. That state of affairs continues, but a radical improvement is in prospect during the second half of this decade.

Although Bloodhound and Rapier missiles provide an important element of ground defence against air attack, manned aircraft will be at the centre of the expectations of the 1957 White Paper.

Of 385 Panavia Tornado aircraft on order for the RAF, 165 will be in the F2 version for air

defence, and these will start to enter squadron service about 1985/86. With their very advanced Marconi radars they are expected to be able to dominate very large areas of air space.

These Tornados will be backed by two squadrons of Phantoms, which will be retained in service for the time being, instead of all aircraft of this class being phased out. They will also be supported by Hawks built by British Aerospace. The Hawk is primarily an advanced trainer, but about 70 of them are to be equipped with Sidewinder missiles, which will enable them to play a secondary role in air defence.

The air defence Tornados will be armed with Sidewinder Aim 9-L and Sky Flash missiles, and these are seen as being adequate to meet needs up to about the end of the decade. However, already advanced medium and short-range air-to-air missiles are being developed to provide armament for the 1990s.

The arrival in service of the air defence Tornado will roughly coincide with the advent of another important upgrading of the RAF's capability in the form of new ground radars and command, control and communications systems. This programme is known by one of the less euphonious acronyms in which the services rejoice: UKADGE, which stands for United Kingdom

Air Defence Ground Environment.

Under this programme, Britain's existing radar stations, which are large, fixed and vulnerable to both physical attack and to electronic warfare, will be replaced by 12 transportable 3-D radars which will be much less vulnerable.

The new radars are to be supplied by Plessey and Marconi, and these companies have linked with Hughes Aircraft Company of California to form UKADGE Systems Limited (UKSL) which will provide command and control systems linking the whole network of radars, control centres and operational bases.

When operational, in about 1986, the new set-up will render visible all air activity in any direction within 1,000 miles of the United Kingdom, and will be able to analyse vast amounts of information and respond to it with great speed and flexibility.

The biggest uncertainty confronting the RAF is whether it will have a new agile fighter by the middle 1990s. The service is in no doubt about its need for such an aircraft, and indeed it originally said it was needed by 1988, though an in-service date of 1995 is now contemplated.

The point at issue is that although the Tornado in both its strike interdiction and air defence

versions is regarded as an excellent aircraft it was not designed to be highly agile or to be able to mix-it with aircraft that are for ground support.

The government has signed a contract with British Aerospace to produce a technology demonstrator aircraft which is expected to fly in 1986. At the same time, British Aerospace is involved in negotiations with German, French and Italian interests to mount a multinational programme for an agile combat aircraft.

The uncertainty arises because the Government has so far refused to commit itself to the principle of acquiring a new agile fighter, and specifically has not committed itself to the British Aerospace project beyond the building of the technology demonstrator.

Two factors are pulling in opposite directions. British Aerospace knows that it will require a programme of providing the RAF with agile aircraft in the early 1990s, to offset the completion of the Tornado programme; on the other hand there is some dispute about the need for such an aircraft, and some doubt whether the defence budget in the early 1990s will be able to bear the cost of such a project.

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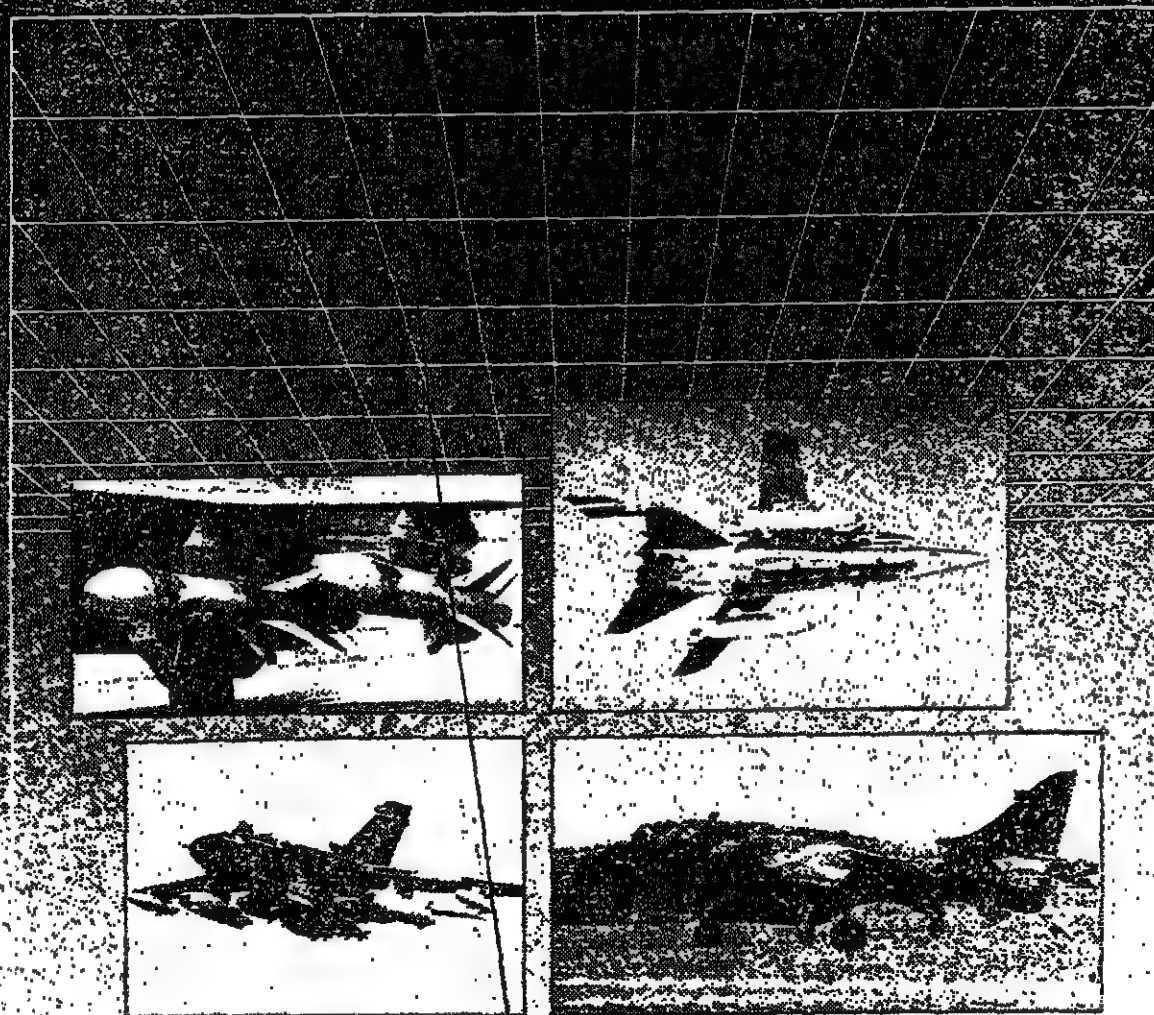
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Behind the glamour of the front-line strike and fighter squadrons, behind the headline-catching exploits of coastal rescue, Wessex and Sea King helicopters, lies the anonymous world of the RAF's workhorses of the air.

The Service operates the equivalent of a medium-sized airline from its bases at Lyneham and Brize Norton, with 13 BAe VC 10 airliners carrying servicemen and their families all over the world, and 60 Lockheed Hercules engaged on tasks ranging from in-flight refuelling to carrying stores and dropping paratroops. Thirty of the Hercules are being "stretched" into the longer-body C-3 version so that they can carry bigger loads.

In addition to the two serving with the Royal Flight, the RAF has a small fleet of Andovers - essentially the BAe HS 748 airliner - which it uses as transports and for the calibration of ground electronics aids.

Several aircraft types which many would imagine went out of service a long time ago are still operated by the RAF. They include the Canberra (entered service, 1951), the Hunter (1954), the Devon (1948), and the Pembroke (1953).

A number of versions of the Canberra continue to be used, including the photographic reconnaissance PR.9, and the T.17 electronics warfare aircraft which tests Britain's air defences by cluttering the radars and jamming false commands to fighters.

About 60 Hunters remain on the inventory, with their main role that of training. Devons are used as communications aircraft, operating mainly from RAF Northolt, London, while the Pembroke does a similar task based in Germany. The RAF has announced that it is to buy four BAe 125 executive jets, known in the Service as Dominies, and these are expected to be the first of a number which will eventually replace the Devons and Pembrokes.

The new 125s will be the 700 version, with American Garrett TPE 731 engines, while a small fleet of 125s already operating from Northolt, as communications aircraft are of an earlier version, powered by Rolls-Royce Viper engines. For fleet commonality, the older 125s are to have their Vipers replaced by TEE 731s.

The RAF uses a larger fleet of Dominies as trainers - flying classrooms for student navigators and air electronics operators.

Student pilots training to fly transport aircraft do much of their training on the BAe Jetstream twin turbo-prop, while the first steps towards flying in the Service

are accomplished in Chipmunk, Bulldog and the venerable Jet Provost, which was first delivered to the RAF for trials in 1955. Bulldogs are used by the 16 university air squadrons.

At the time of writing, the RAF was choosing a decision on a new basic trainer to replace the 110 Jet Provost still in service. A wide selection of aircraft had been offered from both home and abroad, but the choice was narrowing to the BAe P.164 turboprop, and the turbo-prop Firecracker. As fuel economy is high on the list of the Service's priorities, it appeared as if the turbo-prop aircraft might have the edge over the jet.

Expected with rotary-wing aircraft in the RAF may be traced back as far as 1934, when the first of a fleet of 12 Cierva C-30A autogiros, manufactured under licence by Avro as the Roma, was delivered, and today the Service has 140 helicopters of five main types carrying out a wide range of different tasks.

The twin-rotor Boeing Vertol Chinook is the most recent acquisition. A carrier of large loads, the type was sent to the Falklands, but three were lost with the Atlantic Conveyor, and have since been replaced. The Puma, the RAF's other heavy transport helicopter is a product of an Anglo-French development and manufacturing accord, which also produced the smaller Gazelle, used by the Service mainly for training.

The older Westland Wessexes training, and search-and-rescue (SAR) roles - and the larger Westland Sea King is mainly involved in SAR. Both aircraft types have saved hundreds of lives around Britain's coast, winching up yachtsmen from stricken boats and injured crewmen from the decks of tankers and oil rigs.

In addition to Germany and the Falklands, the RAF keeps aircraft on bases in other less publicised parts of the world: Wessex helicopters are based in Hong Kong, and also in Cyprus, where they support the United Nations contingent, while there is a flight of Hunters in Belize.

With the exception of the Sea King, the RAF's aerobatic units, flying Hawk trainers, and the Queen's Flight, with two Andover transports and two Wessex helicopters, two British Aerospace 146 airliners have recently been bought by the RAF for evaluation as replacements for the Andovers, the Service's extensive inventory of other aircraft is seldom in the news.



Keeping the aircraft on target: control tower officers at RAF Marham

THE FALKLANDS

Beating distance as well as the enemy

After the Falklands conflict, one of the glories was scooped up by the Royal Navy and the army. For weeks they basked in the cheers of the nation.

The RAF was meanwhile trying to explain why its most eye-catching contribution to the re-conquest of the islands - the bombing of Port Stanley airfield, which only briefly denied its use to the Argentines - was more than a "marginally relevant attempt to get in on the act."

In fact the RAF's contribution was always more important than it seemed at the time, and has since become absolutely central to Britain's continued control of the islands.

If the raids on Stanley airport were more a tribute to the RAF's technical resourcefulness than to its military effectiveness, there has since been evidence that the

arrival of a Vulcan bomber out of the blue made the Argentines stop and think. And what they thought was that if the RAF could reach Port Stanley, it could probably also reach Argentina. As a result, they redeployed their aircraft more out of fear than of strategy.

RAF Harriers and their crews, who rapidly had to adapt to operating from ships, shared in the achievements of the Sea Harriers.

But the recapture of the Falklands was as much a triumph of logistics as a feat of arms. As critical as defeating the enemy was defeating the distance - 4,000 miles to Ascension, the nearest land base. And here the RAF was indispensable.

Sailing at only a few days' notice, the task force was inevitably only semi-equipped. Ascension, it has been said, briefly became the busiest airport

in the world as the RAF operated a shuttle service carrying men, arms and equipment for the navy to pick up on their long voyage south.

In the weeks before and immediately after the recapture of the Falklands, RAF transport aircraft carried 3,000 tons of equipment and 5,000 men to Ascension.

The short-range RAF vertical/short take-off Harrier's flew out to augment the Royal Navy's aircraft with the task force. Those that flew direct from Britain to Ascension Island needed about eight air-to-air refuellings; those that went on to land on HMS Hermes needed a further eight refuellings. The Vulcan bombing raids on Port Stanley are said to have required the use of 10 air tankers.

Although the RAF was already increasing its air-to-air refuelling

capacity, demands for this facility in the Falklands war far exceeded anything then available. This led to brilliant improvisation by the RAF, and by industry. Vulcan and Hercules aircraft were rapidly converted into air tankers and a system of air-to-air refuelling for Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft was devised and installed in five weeks.

More than 600 air-to-air refuellings were carried out in this period and only six refuelling attempts failed. All aircraft got back to base, though in one instance only after an embarrassing diversion to Brazil.

Since the war the RAF has maintained the "air bridge" from Ascension to the Falklands, using Hercules, which are still dependent on air-to-air refuelling, making about five flights a week. The RAF is concerned that this

delicate, precision operation, which allows small margin for error, may be taken for granted.

The most important watershed since the re-capture of the Falklands was the completion last October of extensions to the runway at Port Stanley. This allowed RAF high performance, supersonic Phantom fighters to be based there and thus gave the islands better air cover than they had enjoyed before or during the conflict.

The arrival of these aircraft and the installation this year of new radar has greatly improved the Falklands' defences. The presence of the Phantoms, moreover, has reduced the strain on the navy's resources by removing the necessity to maintain an aircraft carrier in the South Atlantic.

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RECRUITING

High-tech, but square-bashing comes first

With the introduction into the inventory of increasingly complex aircraft, aircraft systems, engines and weapons in recent years, the RAF has become a high-technology service. It is not surprising that the annual cost of training the men who fly the aircraft, and the men and women who keep them airborne, comes to £200m.

Teaching a pilot to be the complete master of a jet such as a Tornado, Phantom, Buccaneer or Lightning will cost up to £2m. Sixty per cent of all RAF tradesmen are in engineering trades, where the learning process is lengthy and expensive.

The training task never ceases and as many as 15,000 of the 90,000 in the RAF pass through one or other of the 2,000 courses which can be mounted each year at 12 major training establishments or smaller schools at operational bases.

The Service is very conscious of the size of its training bill, which encompasses not only "in-house" courses but those with the other Services, in universities and polytechnics and in industry. The N.J.D. objectives, syllabus content, teaching methods, and teaching aids are constantly monitored to ensure that they are relevant to changing operational tasks.

The training machine also has to be extremely flexible for the annual quota of new entrants to the Service varies considerably. It was 3,000 in 1982 but has risen to 8,000 this

year, so placing strains on both instructors and accommodation. A national unemployment level of more than three million has resulted in it being easier to fill the quota, and in recruits being more selective.

No academic qualifications are required for entry by airmen and airwomen into most of the 128 trades in the RAF, but direct-entry technicians require two O levels at grade C or equivalent, and engineering apprentices require four O levels. Both groups of entrants are expected to have a mathematics or science subject among their results. In recruiting ground-based officers the Service aims for one-third university graduates, but a minimum of five C-grade O-levels is accepted for some branches.

Generations of former airmen will be interested to know that the six-week initial training course for airmen and airwomen includes the traditional "square-bashing", in addition to lectures on RAF history, standard of dress, organization, hygiene, and discipline.

On completion of this induction the recruit joins a trade course where he or she is taught the trade chosen or joining. Such courses may last a few months to more than a year, although in the case of apprentices learning electronic aircraft, engine, and electronics trades, the courses stretch over three years.

Then follows pre-employment training on the specific equipment which will be used - either at an operational station, or at a basic training school, or occasionally in industry.

Rankers are assessed for potential promotion to NCOs or officers from the day they join (20 per cent of all engineer officers, and 5 per cent of all aircrew come from the ranks). Those selected are sent for command and management training to prepare them for increased responsibilities. The courses are intensive and last for up to three weeks.

Initial training for ground-based officers is done at the RAF College, Cranwell, where the standard course lasts 18 weeks with emphasis on leadership and general administrative skills. The newcomers then go on to specialized training on their chosen areas of employment, and those whose posts require second-degree qualifications, such as officers in the

RC

Continued on next page

The Battle of Britain is still being fought.

The task facing the Royal Air Force today is as daunting as it ever was. It is our brief, as watchdogs over Britain, to demonstrate to would-be predators that we are more than capable of holding our own.

We are also charged, in our partnership with NATO, with preserving the status quo in Western Europe. To achieve these aims calls for ceaseless vigilance and the ability to mount a decisive response against those who would threaten us and our allies.

In human terms, it calls for an uncompromising attitude from all those who elect to serve with the RAF.

We describe it as commitment. A word that covers determination, pride and, let's not be ashamed of it, patriotism.

If you are attracted by a career that involves a sense of purpose, read on. And if you're fascinated by the complexities of military aviation, even better.

Because life in the RAF revolves around the aircraft. And we need a whole range of skills both in the air and on the ground.

Perhaps you have the innate skills of reflex and anticipation needed to fly our aircraft. Or the administrative abilities to keep our stations running.

Perhaps you have the engineering and scientific skills needed to keep our aircraft flying. Or the ability to communicate them as an Education and Training Officer.

In the air and on the ground the world's most advanced technology will be yours to handle. And we need, if we are to maintain our supremacy, to improve it still further.

It's a challenge to your imagination and inventiveness. It's an opportunity to express your talents to the full.

And a polite way of saying that we'll stretch you to the limit.

In return we offer you the chance to gain



RAF Officer

invaluable experience and responsibility at an early age.

Salaries compare favourably with civilian careers.

Travel, too, is one of the attractions. Europe, the Mediterranean, NATO exercises or exchange visits can all broaden your horizons.

And, in marked contrast to the demands of the day (and sometimes night), the social life is informal and unstuffy, with, of course, excellent sports facilities.

But please don't let our financial and fringe benefits be the deciding factor in applying for a commission. We hope you're looking beyond that.

And that you're just as interested in what you can give to the RAF as what you can get from it.

What now?

Ideally you should have a degree or 'A' levels or a relevant professional qualification. These are mandatory for some branches but for others five acceptable GCE 'O' levels at grade C or equivalent, including English Language and Maths, are a minimum.

If you think you fit the bill, call in at any RAF Careers Information Office or write to Group Captain J. F. Boon, FBIM, RAF, at RAF Officer Careers (09/00/01), London Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4PZ, asking for further details of Officer careers currently available. Please include date of birth and present and/or intended qualifications.

Formal application must be made in the UK.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Preparing for that first flight

Continued from previous page

engineering and education branches, are provided with advanced professional training. Pre-employment training is given along the lines of that for airmen, mentioned earlier, and then at various stages of their careers officers of all branches who are considered to have demonstrated high potential are selected for progressive command and staff training. This includes courses at the RAF Staff College, Bracknell, Joint staff courses at Greenwich, and at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London. RAF Cranwell provides a series of courses in aspects of air warfare for officers of the RAF and the Navy air forces and these are also attended by officers from the Army and the Royal Navy.

Entrants to the RAF who aspire to being aircrew have first to attend the selection centre at Biggin Hill, the RAF station which achieved fame as a Battle of Britain fighter base. Academic aptitude and medical tests there weed out no fewer than 85 per cent of the applicants. There follows an 18-week initial officer training course at Cranwell, where the success rate is around 85 per cent (senior NCO aircrew have a separate course, with an 80 per cent success rate).

Flying training courses then follow. In these the pressure on the students is intense and up to 30 per cent fail to make the grade in their original choice of branch, although many then re-muster in alternative aircrew categories or as ground-based officers. The students' intensity is up to 30 per cent fail to make the grade in their original choice of branch, although many then re-muster in alternative aircrew categories or as ground-based officers. The students' intensity is up to 30 per cent fail to make the grade in their original choice of branch, although many then re-muster in alternative aircrew categories or as ground-based officers.

Basic and advanced flying at training schools

RAF has three basic flying training schools, and candidates destined to fly fast jets complete a 150-hour course on Jet Provosts, although for graduate entrants who have flown with a university air squadron the course is reduced to 128 hours. Those going on to transport aircraft or helicopters complete 93 and 75 hours respectively before moving on to specialist training.

At advanced flying training schools, which are the next step, fast-jet pilots complete a 75-hour course on the Hawk, multi-engine pilots fly 45 hours on the Jetstream, and helicopter pilots put in 142 hours on the Gazelle and Wessex.

In addition to its conventional aircraft the RAF "flies" a number of types which never leave the ground. These are the simulators in which aircrew carry out part of their training, and two of the latest are those installed by Rediffusion Simulation to represent the Tornado swing-wing bomber and the Hawk trainer.

After advanced flying training school comes the great moment when the new pilots receive their wings - although they are warned that these are not fully earned or confirmed until six months' service has been completed with a squadron.

Navigators complete a 39-week basic course flying in Dominie and Jet Provost aircraft and are then "streamed" to fast jets or multi-engine aircraft, with a further 70 and 78 hours of flying respectively. Fast-jet navigators also receive tactical and weapons training on the Hawk.

After initial airman/aircrew training for air electronics operator, students are promoted to the rank of acting sergeant and undertake a 27-week course before being streamed for above-water or below-water sensor training, lasting a further 26 or 14 weeks respectively. A third stream is to be introduced to train operators for the Nimrod early-warning aircraft fleet which is due in service with the RAF shortly. Air engineers are promoted from airman and undergo a 47-week specialist course.

The course for the fifth branch of RAF aircrew, that of air loadmaster, lasts between 16 and 25 weeks, depending on the type of aircraft to which the student is to be posted. Air loadmaster is the only flying role in the RAF which is open to women.

Arthur Reed



Today's magnificent men and their flying machine: a Tornado crew

WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS

A new battle for aging RAF heroes

The magnificent young men who won the Battle of Britain in 1940 are not so young any more. Many have reached pensionable age, and the rest - in fact all Second World War veterans - are approaching it. As a result, individuals and organizations concerned with the welfare of ex-service men and their dependants are preparing for a dramatic increase in demand on their services over the next few years.

Like the rest of the armed forces, the RAF has been pruned dramatically - from about 1.2 million people serving in 1945 to a current total of about 90,000. Fewer resources are available from service organizations to help the many who are now coming due for old-age assistance. And injuries and disabilities tend to get worse rather than better with age.

Responsibility for assisting former RAF personnel mainly rests with two organizations: the Royal Air Force Association and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. Both groups were formed after the First World War.

Over the years, both organizations have gradually widened their scope. The Duke of Kent School at

Woolpit in Ewhurst, which comes under the wing of the Benevolent Fund, was originally a home for boys whose fathers had been killed during the First World War. It is now a preparatory boarding school with accommodation for girls as well as boys.

Supported by fees, it provides education for children of RAF members and former members, although priority is still given to children whose fathers have died or been seriously disabled.

In the early days after the Second World War the RAF Association was primarily concerned with the resettlement and employment of RAF personnel. Today assistance in applying for special pensions is a major activity.

The two organizations appear to overlap in the care of ex-RAF men and women who are disabled or chronically sick. The Princess Marina House at Hastington in Sussex, is a Benevolent Fund convalescent and residential centre, has accommodation for 49 residents. Last year there were 932 guests, most of whom stayed for a fortnight. The house accommodates people who need to convalesce after an operation or

illness, and also welcomes the elderly, frail or those who are lonely and need a change of scene. Fees are charged but assistance is available for the needy.

The RAF Association supports a separate convalescent home, Richard Peck House at St Anne's on Sea. In addition it provides accommodation and nursing care for 44 permanent patients and a steady flow of short-term guests at Seaside House in Storrington, Sussex. The Association's more flexible terms of reference enable it to assist a wider range of beneficiaries than the Benevolent Fund. This includes people who do not qualify for disability pensions. Some may be suffering from injuries not directly attributable to their service. Former prisoners of war may be suffering the delayed effect of internment. Both groups are also involved in a number of sheltered housing projects for people who appreciate some supervision but do not require constant nursing.

Because of the growing waiting lists for assistance, there is no fear that the two organizations will duplicate efforts. The RAF Benevolent Fund and the Association regard themselves as

complementing each other. Broadly speaking, the Fund aims to provide the financial resources while the Association tries to ensure that the money is spent where it is most needed.

Sometimes very small sums can make an enormous difference. There are countless instances when help in paying television licences, electricity bills, funeral costs and buying orthopaedic equipment or artificial limbs results in effective letters of gratitude from recipients. The Association, with over 100,000 members and nearly 700 honorary welfare officers, can identify people in need who are frequently too proud to seek help on their own account.

It can ensure that assistance is forthcoming, by approaching the Benevolent Fund or other welfare authorities. Often no money is needed - merely knowledgeable guidance through the labyrinth of bureaucracy.

Mr Frank Neal MBE, Secretary-General of the Association, is modest about the assistance his organization gives. He talks in terms of "togetherness" and about "helping the other chap in every

way possible". Like Air Commodore Mike Stanton, Secretary of the Appeals Committee of the Benevolent Fund, Mr Neal is also proud of the high level of support from the RAF.

Nearly all RAF members voluntarily subscribe half a day's pay each year. Many stations also organize open days as well as Battle of Britain "At Home" days.

In addition there are fund-raising activities by wives' clubs, thrift shops and sponsored activities. Last year, RAF personnel contributed a record £1.2m to the Benevolent Fund - nearly three times the contribution made by the general public.

Increased civilian support is clearly necessary. Whether in large sums from legacies or silver in the Wings appeal collecting boxes. Public donations are greatly appreciated.

Patricia Tisdal

The RAF Benevolent Fund repays the debt we owe



The sole purpose of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund is to help past and present members of the Royal Air Force, including the Women's Services, their widows, children and dependants. Eligibility tests fix life.

As the many survivors of the Second World War and their dependants grow older, they are increasingly vulnerable to sickness, infirmity and financial hardship. Casualties also occur in peacetime - aircraft crash, people of all ages become sick and die or are disabled and unable to work and they or their dependants may need the Fund's help. Expenditure on Welfare has virtually doubled in the last four years and in 1982 £3.9m was needed to relieve distress, almost £1m more than in

1981, an increase of 30% in only 12 months. The greater part of this, some £2.6m, went to help widows and the disabled.

We need your help. Every donation we receive means we have more to give. Please remember the Fund in your Will, advice on legacies, bequests and covenants is gladly given.

In carrying out its work the Fund receives invaluable assistance from the Honorary Branch Welfare Officers of the Royal Air Force Association.

If you know of anyone who might qualify for help please contact the Fund or the Honorary Welfare Officer of your local RAFA Branch.

Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund
67 Portland Place, London W1N 4AR Tel: 01-580 8343

Also at
11 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AH Tel: 031-225 6421
Registered under the War Charities Act 1940 and the Charities Act 1960. Registration No. 207327

It may seem that there is plenty of room in the vast blue sky. But the ever-increasing popularity of air travel places still higher demands on the maintenance of international air traffic safety. As an acknowledged world leader in SSR (Secondary Surveillance Radar), Cossor Electronics assists air traffic controllers by providing the vital systems which identify the aircraft positively, track them precisely, and report their positions accurately. In fact, when it comes to 'minding' air traffic, our equipment has no equal.

We were a pioneer in the introduction of SSR and have continually introduced new developments to keep ahead of the requirements of growing traffic densities.

Our latest system, Monopulse SSR, overcomes the

many problems of signal interference effects caused by crowded skies, enabling the controller and pilot to make better use of the airspace with more efficient flight paths and a consequent saving in fuel.

The Civil Aviation Authority was the first in the world to recognise the advantages of Monopulse SSR. 22 Cossor systems are currently being installed throughout the UK. Overseas, Saudi Arabia is the first of what we confidently expect to be many customers to follow their example.

To complete the Monopulse system, Cossor has introduced a new antenna. Its large vertical aperture construction will improve radar coverage and overcome ground reflection effects.

Cossor engineers are also closely involved in the development of the SSR system beyond Monopulse, known as Mode S. This will have, among other advantages, a data-link capability, enabling digital information to be transmitted between the pilot and the ground.

Cossor built and operated the trials station together with the airborne units for the CAA and is closely involved in the international activities to ratify the new system.

(All UK Monopulse SSR stations are designed for ready updating to full Mode S operation.)

If you would like more details of our company and products, please contact us. We will be pleased to send you a copy of our corporate brochure.

Cossor Electronics, The Pinnacles, Harlow, Essex, CM19 5BB.
Telephone: Harlow (0279) 26862.

COSSOR
electronics

Thinking for tomorrow

Mind the traffic.

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 713.6 up 1.2
FT 100: 79.97 up 0.04
FT All Share: 454.25 up 0.87
Bargains: 18,730
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 94.34 up 0.1
New York: Dow Jones
Average: (latest) 1238.41
down 5.70
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 686.32 down 2.21
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Index: 922.75 down 16.12
Amsterdam: 151.2 up 0.4
Sydney: AO Index 726.9 up 1.8
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index 931.30 up 2.90
Brussels: General Index
133.71 up 0.57
Paris: CAC Index 134.9
down 0.3
Zurich: SKA General Index
288.8 down 0.9

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4920 up 5pts
Index 84.8 up 0.5
DM 3.9875 down 0.0125
FrF 12.0200 down 0.0350
Yen 365.00 down 1.00
Dollar Index 129.0 down 0.3
DM 2.6765
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4925
Dollar DM 2.6740
INTERNATIONAL
ECU: 0.568986
SDRE: 7.00100

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rate 10%
Discount market loans week
fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/4-9 1/2%
3 month DM 5 1/2-5%
3 month FrF 14 1/4-14%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 10 1/2-10 3/4%
ECB: Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period August 3 to
September 6, 1983 inclusive:
9.930 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$414.50 pm \$414.00
Base \$414.41-415 (227.50-278)
New York latest: \$414.00
Kruggerand (per cent):
\$426.50-428 (286-287)
Sovereigns (new):
\$97.50-98.50 (265.25-66)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interim: European Ferries, HB
Electronic Components, Home
Counties Newspapers, Sharon
Ware.
Finals: Hayles Publishing,
Second Alliance Trust.
Economic Statistics: Central
Government transactions, in-
cluding borrowing requirement
(August).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

D. F. Bevan, Midland Hotel,
Birmingham (12.15).
J. Brown, 4 The Sanctuary,
Westminster (12.30).
Electronics, City Con-
ference Centre, Mark Lane
EC3 (noon).
General Electric, Institution of
Electrical Engineers, Savoy
Place (12.00).
Mitchell Somers, Painters Hall,
Little Trinity Lane, EC4 (noon).
Norton Opax, Queen's Hotel,
Leeds (noon).
Pittsford Brothers, Prescott
Road, St Helens (2.30).
R.F.D. Group, Baltic Exchange,
St Mary Axe, EC3 (noon).
Radiant Metal Finishing, 69
Fairfield Road, Bow (10.30).
Russell (Alexander), Royal
Scottish Automobile Club,
Blythswood Square, Glasgow
(noon).
Thorn EMI, Barbican Centre,
Sik Street (noon).
Youghal Carpets, (Holdings,
Hilltop Hotel, Youghal, Co Cork
(noon).

NOTEBOOK

Delta Group, the electrical,
metal-forming and household
products company, has lifted
interim pretax profits from
£5.51m to £13.4m. But some of
the improvement came from
stock profits of £4.18m,
against a loss of £2.04m.
Margins are under pressure in
Britain and trading in southern
Africa and Australia was
hampered by the recession.
The dividend is maintained at
1.82p.

Approval for sell-off 'not a foregone conclusion'

BP's North Sea oil auction raises tax loss fears at Treasury

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Government is worried about the possible impact on its North Sea oil revenues of BP's surprise plan to auction part of its holding in the Forties field, Britain's most productive field.

Both the Department of Energy and the Treasury made it clear yesterday that they would be studying the tax implications of the deal very carefully before giving final approval to BP's plan to sell up to 12 per cent of the field to other companies.

Some estimates are that the plan could cost the Treasury as much as £200m in lost oil revenues over the next two to three years, since potential purchasers will pay less than BP, although this should be offset by higher tax receipts in later years.

News of the proposed BP deal helped to send BP's shares up 8p to 438p yesterday. Most analysts agreed with the company that the auction - which BP hopes will raise a minimum of £250m - was a shrewd and beneficial deal.

The stock market is still expecting the Government to press ahead as soon as possible with its promised sale of another £500m of shares in BP. The final go-ahead for the sale is expected to be announced in the middle of next week.

Despite the favourable stock market reaction, however, the Government was at pains to emphasize that it was concerned by the broader implications as of the deal, however much it may have improved the prospects for the impending issue.

Officially both the Department of Energy and the Treasury confined themselves to saying that it would have to consider the

the auction plan - the first of its kind in the North Sea - with great care.

But privately they were letting it be known that approval was by no means a foregone conclusion, especially if it appeared that other oil companies might follow BP's example and sell some of their North Sea interests to rationalize their tax position.

The crux of the BP deal is that allows them to sell part of their highly taxed Forties production to other companies which can use the field's mature production to offset against exploration and appraisal drilling expenses in other parts of the North Sea.

The precise impact of the deal on Government revenues will depend on which companies bid. Sources close to BP said that the loss of revenue was likely to be only between £80m and £140m over a period of three years.

The stockbroker Scott Giff Hancock said that the loss of revenue would be no more than £165m in a full year - which compared with total annual North Sea oil revenues of more than £8,000m.

Senior BP executives are known however to be aware of the sensitive political implications of the proposed deal. Unconfirmed reports said that Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy was unhappy to find the BP proposal so abruptly planted on his desk when he returned from holiday earlier this week.

It is accepted in Whitehall however that any short-term loss of revenues is likely to be more than compensated for in the longer term by companies exploring for and developing new fields as a result of the tax write-offs they acquire from BP by purchas-

ing part of the Forties field.

Although a great number of companies are expected to be interested in the BP offer, there was considerable doubt in the City and the oil industry last night whether enough buyers with suitable favourable tax positions could be found to buy the entire 10 per cent of Forties that BP is putting up for auction.

BP says that no buyer will be allowed to buy more than two per cent of the field. Another two per cent is being sold directly to two unnamed oil companies.

British companies have been discouraged by Florida's unitary taxation laws and there is little point in encouraging British businessmen to invest according to the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry which yesterday cancelled a trade mission to the state.

Europe presses for better dollar control

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Concern over the lack of US leadership on currency issues is almost certain to result in a European effort to force the Reagan Administration to control the erratic movement of the dollar, sources in Washington said.

There is increasing consensus among European and Asian officials that a campaign to force the United States to pay greater attention to exchange rates in setting monetary policy must be launched at the joint annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund later this month.

Adding to the external pressures are domestic efforts to force the Reagan Administration to control the upward movement of the dollar, which has seriously affected the US trade position over the past year.

Several powerful business associations have staged well-financed lobbying campaigns in support of Congressional resolutions to curb erratic movements in the dollar in relation to other currencies. These are likely to intensify in the weeks ahead as Congressmen return from a summer recess.

The misalignment of the dollar and other major currencies is the most important single factor behind America's dismal trade performance of the last few years. The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) said in a letter to members and congress-

Return to profits at Talbot

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Talbot UK, the British arm of the French Peugeot motors group, has recorded a first-half profit for the first time in 10 years. It made £1.5m, against a loss of £40.6m a year ago.

At the same time, Mr George Turnbull, the Talbot UK chairman, said yesterday he hoped to begin talks with ministers soon on the company's plan for a huge investment programme in Britain.

Mr Turnbull said the company's first-half profit was a result of a combination of factors, including a reduction in the number of cars produced, a reduction in the number of cars sold, and a reduction in the number of cars in the fleet.

Mr Turnbull said the company's first-half profit was a result of a combination of factors, including a reduction in the number of cars produced, a reduction in the number of cars sold, and a reduction in the number of cars in the fleet.

Talbot's success, which comes after five dismal years of losses totalling £250m and a job shedding programme which has caused 16,000 redundancies, clearly has impressed the troubled Peugeot management which, Mr Turnbull said yesterday, was now supportive of the British operation and keen to maintain a manufacturing base in the important British market.

Talbot's UK sales in the first six months were almost 97,000 cars. Last month the company won 5.22 per cent of the British market.

Talbot's operating profit for the half-year was £7.9m, but was eroded by interest charges of £4.5m which, although half the level of a year earlier, still reflect the bank loans negotiated as part of the Chrysler rescue in 1976, and £1.9m of exceptional items including closure and redundancy costs.

The improvement is the result of significantly better sales to Iran, which buys the old Hunter car in kit form, better car sales in Britain and improved productivity and cost reductions in its factories.

Industrial Notebook, page 15

Monopolies referral for £67m GKN bid

By Derek Pain, City Correspondent

The £67m takeover bid by GKN, Koen and Neufelds for AE (the old Associated Engineering) was yesterday referred to the Monopolies Commission - more to the dismay of GKN than AE.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Trade and Industry Minister, accepted the advice of Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading. This is the second major takeover offer he has sent to the Commission since becoming Trade Minister. The earlier one was the £300m Trafalgar House offer for the P&O shipping group.

GKN said it "regretted" Mr Parkinson's decision. The merger would have presented a "significant opportunity to restructure an important section of the UK automotive components industry to meet international competition."

Although, under the terms of the offer, the GKN bid lapsed on the referral, the industrial giant intends to argue its case before the Monopolies Commission.

AE would not comment on Mr Parkinson's decision but said it would "cooperate fully" with the Commission. Its directors were yesterday locked in a board meeting.

Mr John Collyear, the chairman, and his board had initially rejected the GKN offer. But a higher bid tempted them into what appeared to be reluctant acceptance.

Rumours that the bid would be referred to Commission circulated in the City this week and were reported in *The Times* on Wednesday.

The Stock Exchange was making a routine preliminary inquiry into dealings in AE's shares before yesterday's announcement.

On the stock market, GKN shares rose 3p to 177p yesterday and AE's fell 8p to 50p.

GKN looked upon the merger as an important move in shaking up the car components industry. Job losses were regarded by industry observers as inevitable if the bid had succeeded and GKN had attempted to streamline the industry.

Stockbrokers Laurence, Prust and Co., representing around 5 per cent of AE's shares, strongly opposed the offer. Mr Patrick Everhead, a partner, believes that after AE's heavy spending on plant and research, the company should start to make impressive headway.

He maintained that even the higher GKN offer "seriously undervalued" AE.

The Laurence, Prust thinking is that the AE profits revival will be showing through by the time the Commission reports in six months.

Prudential shares fall despite dividend rise

By Andrew Cornelius

The Prudential Corporation, Britain's biggest insurance group, yesterday announced an £8.3m increase in after-tax profits to £26.3m in the six months to June 30.

The interim dividend has been increased from 5p to 5.5p a share although the shares fell by 20p to 462p on the news that the stockmarket registered its disappointment at figures which fell far short of £33m-plus forecasts.

A breakdown of the figures showed higher profits from the group's "longer" term business which was up by £1.9m to £25.6m and a reduced loss after tax on the general insurance business down from £8m to £2.7m.

Underwriting losses on the general business were reduced by £4.8m to £37.3m helped by a return to profits in Canada and reduced underwriting losses in Britain, which were down from £16.9m to £14.8m.

A reduction in motor insurance rates by the group earlier this year pushed up the underwriting loss of Prudential's motor business from £3.5m to £5.1m. But the cheaper rate structure announced earlier this year has helped increase motor business and it is now expected to move to a sounder footing.

The mild winter helped the group reduce underwriting losses on its household insurance business from £8.4m to £4.9m.

Investment income from general insurance and shareholders funds combined increased by 19 per cent to £43.5m.

Prudential Corporation
Half-year 30.6.83
After-tax profit £26.3m (£20m)
Stated earnings 9.5p (8.7p)
Premium income £792.4m (£892.6m)
Underwriting loss £37.3m (£42.1m)
Net interest dividend 5.5p (5p)
Share price 462p down 20p
Dividend payable 17.11.83

Compensation in commodities

Commodity markets yesterday agreed to set up their first compensation fund to protect private clients when a broker goes bust. The current scheme would give £7,500 of cover to each investor in the event of a default.

In his interim report on investor protection, Professor Laurence "Jim" Gower, company law adviser at the Department of Trade and Industry, recommended the formation of a Futures Brokers' Association and a compensation fund, to cover the commodity markets.

However, the London Metal Exchange (LME) last night decided to break away from any such association and set up a compensation fund on its own.

WALL STREET Profit-taking hits Dow

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - On the New York Stock Exchange shares continued to fall in early trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by about 5 points. More than 700 stocks were lower and about 600 higher.

There was heavy institutional activity in the first hour, especially by Goldman Sachs. Most of this dried up later. There was also some profit-taking after two strong days in which the Dow rose by a total of almost 30 points.

But the market's decline was modest and some of the cyclical stocks were gaining favour while the technology companies were coming under pressure.

Lockheed, after being delayed in opening because of an imbalance of orders, was trading at 116 1/2, up 3 1/2. It has won a \$2m (£134m) space shuttle order. Rockwell International, which lost the contract, was down 1 1/2 to 28 1/2.

Banks were lower in active trading, with Citicorp down 1 1/2 to 36 1/2, Chase Manhattan, 49 1/2, off 1 1/2. Chemical Bank, 46 1/2, down 1 1/2. Bankers' Trust, 44 1/2, off 1 1/2. The Wall Street Journal and Dow Jones News Service reported that the third-quarter earnings of New York's banks may be hurt by Brazil's loan arrears.

Commonwealth experts call for urgent action Backing for new Bretton Woods

By Francis Williams, Economic Correspondent

The prospect of a new Bretton Woods conference on reform of the world financial and trading system came a step closer yesterday with the publication of a Commonwealth expert's report calling for immediate start to preparations by a representative group of ministers and top international officials.

The report, Towards a new Bretton Woods, is likely to be received favourably at Commonwealth finance ministers' meeting in a fortnight in Trinidad. It will also provide ammunition for proponents of reform when the issues are discussed at the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund later in the month and at the Commonwealth heads of government conference in New Delhi in November.

The support was commissioned by Commonwealth finance ministers last year after pressure from Mr Robert Muldoon, the New

Zealand Prime Minister. Since then, President Mitterrand of France has also urged the setting up of a new Bretton Woods conference and secured the agreement of sceptical heads of government at the Williamsburg summit last June.

The report, prepared by nine leading bankers and economists, including Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, says a strong global recovery is essential to remove the threat of a big financial crisis with its "certain promise of economic chaos". But it says a durable non-inflationary recovery will be hard to achieve without improvement in the international financial system.

The report proposes:

- Target zones or guidelines to secure more stable exchange rates under the IMF supervision.
- A greater international coordination and supervision of national policies affecting trade and finance, perhaps by extending the IMF's role.
- More resources for the World Bank and the IMF, including authority for the fund to borrow from capital markets.
- Increased official aid flows and measures to stabilize commodity prices, especially oil.
- Measures to encourage direct investment and other flows to reduce the role of lending by commercial banks.
- An action to halt protectionism and the eventual setting up of a new umbrella institution to supervise world trade.

The report's supporters hope that backing by Commonwealth governments could give the issue new momentum. Not only do they represent a third of the world's nations but their leaders, notably Mrs Thatcher and Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, are highly influential in the international community.

City Editor's Comment

American Janus in world finance

Treasury officials and central bankers are in for a busy time. On next week's agenda at the central governors' meeting at the Bank for International Settlements and at the meeting of the Group of Ten industrial countries deputies later in the week is the question of finance for both the International Monetary Fund and for Brazil, its biggest customer.

Governors and officials will be discussing a \$3bn bridging loan from G10 countries for the IMF to cover its commitments gap - the difference between its resources and what it has promised to borrowers.

Meanwhile, talks will continue on the \$11bn (£7.3m) rescue plan for Brazil. Governments are proposing that commercial banks provide \$7bn of this and they in effect provide \$4bn towards closing Brazil's external financing gap by rescheduling official loan payments and guaranteeing new trade credits which banks would have to provide.

The intriguing political aspect to these two sets of talks is the position of the US. It is firmly taking the lead in the Brazilian rescue, spurred on both by concern about the financial implications of Brazil going under, but perhaps more importantly by the foreign policy implications.

For other western countries such as Britain, France, Germany and Japan who would all have to play significant roles in the rescue, Brazil has far less strategic importance.

At the end of the day, worries about their own banking systems will probably tip the balance but it may take a fair amount of cajoling by the Americans before a package falls firmly into place.

When it comes to the IMF, however, the boot may be on the other foot. Most of the big industrialized nations have moved swiftly to approve their share of the IMF's crucial quota increase.

The US, however, has dragged its feet and while opposition in Congress is the excuse, there are many who feel that the Administration has not done its best to get the quota increase through Congress.

When it comes to a \$3bn bridging loan for the IMF it could be that the US will again prove a problem. It may, for instance, feel agreeing to help with a bridging loan could further hinder getting the IMF quota rise through Congress and delay on the bridging loan is the best course.

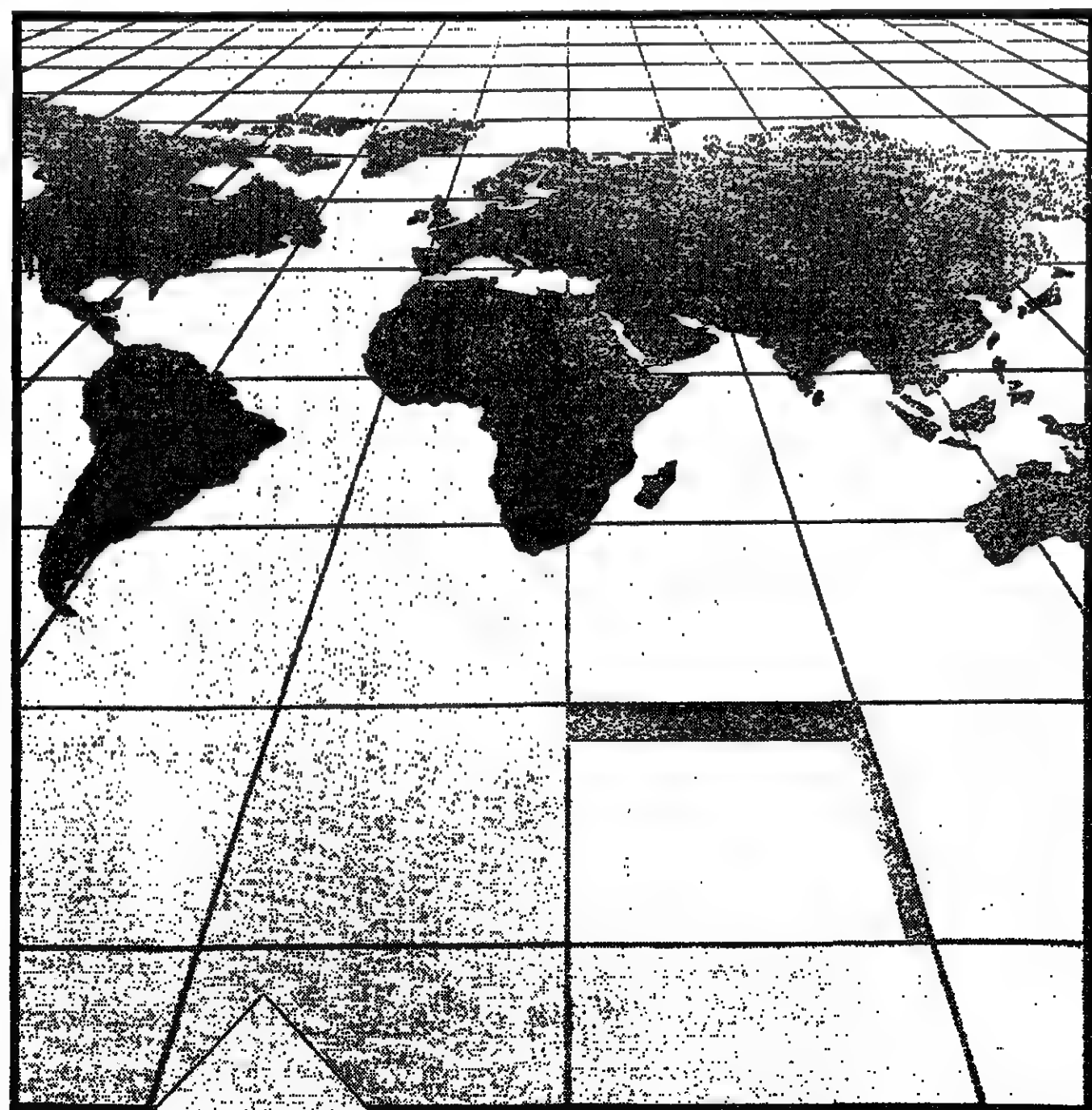
Another possibility which has been floated is that the US would not contribute to the IMF bridging loan, but instead take a bigger share of government support for Brazil.

The reasoning is that Congressmen can see a direct link between American jobs and the solvency of Brazil although they cannot grasp a link between jobs at home and money for the IMF.

As far as the Brazilian problem itself is concerned, the clock is ticking away and commercial bankers appear to be increasingly worried at the lack of movement on the Brazilian side. A new letter of intent with the IMF has still not been signed.

Even when it is, there will be some boxing to come between commercial banks and governments. The banks say they cannot raise the \$7bn which governments say they should. Indeed, bankers say that \$6bn of new bank loan may well prove impossible.

Furthermore, the banks still want governments to provide finance which matches the likely maturities of the new loans they will raise, and they also want government help in the form of straight balance of payments finance.



CONTINUED SUCCESS BUILT UPON INTERNATIONAL STRENGTH

| Six months' results (unaudited) | 1983 | 1982 | Full year 1982 |
|--|---------|---------|----------------|
| Revenue | £129.3m | £108.8m | £217.0m |
| Profit before taxation (and extraordinary items) | £48.3m | £40.1m | £72.9m |
| Earnings for the period | £23.4m | £20.2m | £37.7m |
| Earnings per ordinary share | 10.8p | 9.4p | 17.5p |
| Dividend per ordinary share | 2.75p | 2.50p | 7.0p |

Sedgwick Group



A commanding presence in worldwide insurance and reinsurance broking

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Michael Prest

● **John Foster:** The company is to acquire E. A. Mathews for £725,000 and merge it with its own speciality worsted manufacturing operation in Yorkshire. The price will be satisfied by the issue of 1.1m shares at 33p each and by £362,000 in cash. The vendors have agreed not to sell their shares for three years.

During the interim period, there was a substantial improvement in results from the Filtrona division where the British filter side made substantial progress after its losses last year, with strong improvement also achieved in Thailand and Germany. Within the merchanting division there was also a good recovery from the downward pressures on margins earlier this year, while overseas merchanting

Delta Group

A recent burst of activity in the shares notwithstanding, Delta has scarcely aroused excitement for several years. Shareholders upset by the March dividend cut may be slightly mollified by the 150 per cent increase in interim profits, but appearances can be deceptive.

The strategic problem is that most of the company's businesses are low-technology and mature. A good part of the electrical (cables, wiring and switches), fluid controls (what the rest of us call taps) and assorted non-ferrous products can be made more cheaply almost anywhere in the Third World. Unlike IML, for

Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £15m (£12.1m)
Statad earnings 5.1p (4.0p)
Turnover £168m (£152.4m)
Net interm dividend 2.5p (2.25p)
Share price 136p down 7p Yield
5.9%

Ironically, this success has limited the company's ability to force through price increases, but that does not seem to have harmed the present rise in profitability.

The stock market welcomed profits news and ordinary shares rose by 8p to 341p while the shares gained 15p to 311p. Around 65 per cent of Colson shares remain in three hands. News International's purchase of either of the two other significant blocks would give it control.

● **West Coast Hldgs**, the Australian mining explorer, is close to an agreement which could bring in London-Based finance house to pay for proving up its gold deposits at an abandoned mine, Donnybrook, Western Australia. If the feasibility study is successful, Donnybrook is said to have "the potential to be the biggest gold producer in Australia."

Interim Results

The estimated total profit after tax for the first half of 1983 was \$8.3m higher at \$28.3m. Profits from long-term business and the investment income on shareholders' funds were both higher. There was a reduced trading loss on general insurance business, principally due to a continuation into 1983 of the favourable experience in Canada in the second half of 1982, some recovery from the weather-affected results in the United States in investment income. The general insurance business in the United Kingdom continues to be overall the most satisfactory, but the reinsurance business from Mercantile & the Directors have declared an interim dividend of 5.5p per share (1982 5.0p) payable on 17 November to shareholders on the Register at close of business on 20 October.

| Unaudited Estimated Results | | Half year ended 30 June | | Year |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | | 1983 | 1982 | 1982 |
| | | Estimated | Estimated | Actual |
| | | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| Long-Term Business: | Premium income | 762.4 | 692.6 | 1,380.1 |
| | Surplus attributable to shareholders | 26.6 | 23.7 | 50.4 |
| General Insurance Business: | Premiums written | 356.7 | 309.1 | 606.5 |
| | Underwriting result | (37.3) | (42.1) | (67.6) |
| | Investment income | 33.3 | 27.9 | 60.3 |
| | Trading profit (loss) before tax | (4.0) | (14.2) | (7.3) |
| | Taxation credit | 1.3 | 6.2 | 3.6 |
| | Profit (loss) after tax | (2.7) | (8.0) | (3.7) |
| Shareholders' Other Income: | Investment income | 10.2 | 8.6 | 17.6 |
| | Miscellaneous net income | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| | Expenses | (1.2) | (1.1) | (1.9) |
| | Taxation | (4.0) | (3.3) | (7.1) |
| | Other income after tax | 5.4 | 4.3 | 8.9 |
| Summary of Results: | Long-term business | 26.6 | 23.7 | 50.4 |
| | General insurance business | (2.7) | (8.0) | (3.7) |
| | Shareholders' other income | 5.4 | 4.3 | 8.9 |
| | Total profit after tax | 28.3 | 20.0 | 55.6 |
| | Earnings per share | 9.5p | 6.7p | 18.6p |

Notes
1 The half year results should not be taken as a guide to the likely results for the year as a whole.
2 The results for the half year ended 30 June 1982 are translated mainly at end 1982 exchange rates, and have been restated on the basis adopted for the 1982 Accounts.

| | Half year ended 30 June | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------|--------|-------------------|------|-----------------------|--------|------|------|
| | Premiums written | | Underwriting result | | Investment income | | Trading profit (loss) | | | |
| | 1983 | 1982 | 1983 | 1982 | 1983 | 1982 | 1983 | 1982 | 1983 | 1982 |
| | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| UK | 124.8 | 110.7 | (14.8) | (16.9) | 10.9 | 9.3 | (3.9) | (7.6) | | |
| Canada | 47.6 | 44.3 | 6.4 | (1.5) | 3.8 | 3.3 | 10.2 | 1.8 | | |
| EEC | 22.9 | 23.0 | (4.1) | (3.8) | 3.1 | 2.6 | (1.0) | (1.3) | | |
| Other Countries | 24.6 | 22.1 | (3.4) | (3.7) | 2.3 | 2.1 | (1.1) | (1.6) | | |
| Marine & Aviation | 9.8 | 6.0 | (2.1) | (0.5) | 1.3 | 1.2 | (0.8) | 0.7 | | |
| Mercantile & General | 127.2 | 103.0 | (19.3) | (15.7) | 11.9 | 9.5 | (7.4) | (6.2) | | |
| | 356.7 | 309.1 | (37.3) | (42.1) | 33.3 | 27.9 | (4.0) | (14.2) | | |

In the United Kingdom the underwriting loss on domestic property was lower at £4.9m (1982 £8.4m including over £7m from the bad weather). Motor premium rates were reduced in February and as expected the underwriting loss was higher at £5.1m (1982 £3.5m). The results include exceptional costs of over £3m arising from the previously announced general insurance business reorganisation in the UK, and further such costs will arise in the second half.

In Canada, following the marked improvement in the results in the second half of 1982, there was a trading profit of £10.2m, but intense competition for business has led to reductions in premium rates which will inevitably affect profitability in the second half. At Mercantile & General, underwriting results continue to give cause for concern, particularly in the proportional and marine accounts. The benefit to be expected from the more selective approach to underwriting will not appear in reported results for some time.

Investment Income
Investment income on general insurance and shareholders' funds combined increased by 19% to £43.5m.



New York (NYNBS) - A group of companies led by Lockheed has beaten a consortium led by Rockwell International to win a contract potentially worth billions of dollars to provide launching and servicing services for shuttle flights.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is to award the contract to a five-company team headed by Lockheed Space

Operations to perform shuttle servicing at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida and the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

The contract will contain an option for another three years, at a cost for the initial six-year period of about \$2bn (£1.34bn). The potential contract period is 9 years, raising the value to more than \$3.5bn (£2.25bn).

[illegible]

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
 Rubber in £'s per tonnes;
 Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per
 metric ton;
 Gas-oil in US per metric ton.

[illegible]

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Unofficial prices
Official turnover figures.
Prices in pounds per metric ton
Silver in ounces per Troy ounce
Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| COPPER IRON GRADE | 1072.50-1075.00 |
| Three months | 1101.50-1102.00 |
| SPRINGFIELD CATHODES | 4900 |
| Cash | 1040.00-1041.00 |
| Three months | 1049.50-1050.00 |
| T/C | 1.80 |
| IRON STANDARD | |
| Cash | 8975-8980 |
| Three months | 8975-8980 |
| T/C | 1.80 |
| IRON PIPE GRADE | |
| Cash | 8975-8980 |
| Three months | 8975-8980 |
| T/C | 1.80 |
| LEAD | |
| Cash | 273.00-265.25 |
| Three months | 273.00-273.25 |
| T/C | 1.80 |
| LEAD SKEW | |
| Cash | 265.50-267.00 |
| Three months | 265.50-267.00 |
| T/C | 25.95 |
| LEAD PURELY SKINNY | |
| Cash | 215.50-217.00 |
| Three months | 215.50-217.00 |
| T/C | 57 |
| ALUMINUM | |
| Cash | 1098.50-1100.00 |
| Three months | 1152.00-1152.50 |
| T/C | 4.75 |
| ALUM. PRIME | |
| Cash | 2327-2328 |
| Three months | 2327-2328 |
| T/C | 570 |
| ALUM. SKINNY | |

| Results in brief | 1983 | 1982 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ |
| Group Turnover | 6,858,354 | 6,508,938 |
| Profit before Tax | 189,736 | 200,080 |
| Dividends paid (after waivers) | 31,458 | 31,458 |
| Earnings per 5p share | 3.52p | 3.78p |

* The profit reported, although showing a reduction, was made in probably the most competitive market suffered in the Company's history and, but for a bad debt, profits would have been maintained.

“At the time of this report turnover is running at a slightly higher level than the corresponding period last year and every effort is being made to maintain this improvement.”

F. Copson,
Chairman & Managing Director

ACTIVITIES:—Suppliers of heating equipment and plumbing and sanitaryware goods. Installers of warm air heating equipment.

Erdington - Birmingham



Interim Statement

8th September, 1982

The Directors of Schroders Public Limited Company have resolved to pay an interim dividend for the year ending 31st December, 1983 of 3p per share on the Ordinary Shares of £1 each (fully paid). This dividend is the same as the interim dividend paid in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1982.

The dividend will be payable on 27th October, 1983 to shareholders whose names appear in the Register of Members of the Company as at 29th September, 1983.

The profits of the Schroder Group for the first six months of 1983 were higher than in the same period of the previous year. Activity throughout the Group was at a high level with most parts of the business benefiting from generally favourable trading conditions.

120 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6DS.



| 53 weeks ended 30th April | 1983 | 1982 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Turnover | £'000 | £'000 |
| Profit/(Loss) before taxation* | 88,018 | 91,973 |
| Profit before extraordinary items | (457) | 507 |
| Profit before extraordinary items | 182 | 608 |
| Extraordinary items less taxation | 1,743 | 2,919 |
| Earnings per ordinary share | — | 0.65p |
| Dividend per ordinary share | 0.25p | 2.38p |

* It has provided impossible to eliminate trading losses at "Boutines". The store has now ceased to trade and the lease is being surrendered to the landlord. The cash sum of \$400,000 payable on 29th September 1983. The trading loss account includes an extraordinary charge of £1,743,000 which largely represents the estimated costs of closure of "Boutines" to the extent not previously provided, and provision for trading losses expected to be incurred from 30th April 1983 to the date of closure of the store, after taking account of the cash sum receivable on the surrender of the lease.

● It is the Board's view that your company's prospects are fundamentally improved now that "Bourmes" has been sold. There are signs of improvement in trading conditions particularly in the retail sector. If this improvement continues there is every reason to expect better results from your company in the future, which will enable the company to resume dividend payments on the ordinary shares in keeping with those paid in the past.

● The Group's balance sheet remains strong and despite an increase in borrowing, is relatively lightly geared.

Copies of the report are available from:
The Secretary, Raybeck PLC, 309 Oxford Street, London W1R 2LE

APPOINTMENTS

C. E. Heath group board changes

C. E. Heath (International): Mr D. H. Newton is now chairman. Mr N. J. Chamberlain and Mr J. Percy-Davis are now joint managing directors. Mr J. J. Burton has resigned from the board of C. E. Heath plc to undertake a consultancy role in which he will develop the group's broking interests outside the United Kingdom. He has also resigned from the board of C. E. Heath (Insurance Broking) and from the board and chairmanship of C. E. Heath (International).

Co-operative Wholesale Society: Mr Alan Prescott has been named as financial controller to succeed Mr Quentin Russell on his retirement this month.

Nettingham Building Society: Lord Chalfont has been appointed president.

C.R.S.: Mr William Farrow, chief executive of United Co-Operatives, will be chief executive in succession to Mr R. A. Lee. Mr Farrow will take office at the end of October.

Norwich Brewery: Mr Ian Kirkhope has become production and distribution director.

Macarthy's Pharmaceuticals: Mr Barrie Thompson, managing director of Farrillon, will take up the newly-created post of management services director of Macarthy's Ltd on October 1. Mr John Mori will become managing director of Farrillon. He will be replaced as managing director of Macarthy's by Mr Jim Canning.

St Martins Property Corporation: Mr Brian Cann (formerly Joint Chief Executive) is now managing director. Mr John Stringer (also formerly joint chief executive) becomes chief executive (corporate). Mr Malcolm Savage (previously executive director/chief surveyor) is promoted to chief executive (property). Mr Norman Hogben has been made executive director/chief surveyor. Mr Peter Kershaw has been appointed executive director/London Bridge City and Mr Glyn Lamberton has become executive director/Europe. Mr Christopher Bellhouse (property controller), Mr Ian Mitchell (group accountant) and Mr William Renwick (northern) continue as executive directors.

Michael Prest looks at arguments against large-scale intervention

Third World theories face a counter-revolution

For every practical crisis there is a crisis of ideas, and so it is in the Third World. While the problems of poverty, slums and unemployment have commanded international attention, behind the scenes theories about development are threatened with a counter-revolution.

The object of the attack is the post-war consensus which, broadly speaking, has favoured aid, large-scale intervention in developing countries, and managed trade as agents of growth. The outcome could be a radical change in the development strategies of developed and developing countries to smaller government and more open economies.

Stripped to its essentials, the debate is whether the populations of many Third World countries would have been better off if their governments had allowed relative prices to allocate resources rather than trying to mould the economy by extensive state intervention.

A secondary theme is the degree to which the allegedly state-control approach of many developing country governments has been a failure. The evidence is mixed, but the case for the free market is growing.

At first sight this is just another abstract squabble between the advocates and opponents of markets. But the issue goes deeper. First, the diverse sources of criticism of the policies followed by developing country governments - ranging from predictable conservative opinion, through august institutions such as the World Bank, to the countries themselves means the argument should not be dismissed lightly.

Secondly, the critics' case, while springing partly from the disintegration in the West of the Keynesian consensus, which undoubtedly influenced development thinking, also owes much to empirical evidence accumulated over many years. For example, the World Bank concludes with characteristic care in its *World Development Report 1983* that "price reforms are needed to all economic and social benefits to their comparative advantage, keep wages in line with productivity, and remove price distortions." It is hard to dismiss the Bank as an agent of imperialism.

Indices of price distortions and various components of growth in the 1970s

| Country | Distortion Index | Annual GDP growth rate (per cent) | Annual growth rate of agriculture (per cent) | Annual growth rate of industry (per cent) | Annual growth rate of export volume (per cent) |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Malawi | 1.14 | 6.3 | 4.1 | 7.0 | 3.7 |
| Thailand | 1.43 | 7.2 | 4.7 | 10.0 | 11.8 |
| Cambodia | 1.57 | 5.6 | 4.8 | 8.6 | 2.5 |
| Korea, Rep | 1.57 | 9.5 | 3.2 | 15.4 | 23.0 |
| Malaysia | 1.57 | 7.8 | 5.1 | 8.7 | 7.4 |
| Philippines | 1.57 | 6.3 | 4.9 | 8.7 | 7.0 |
| Tunisia | 1.57 | 7.5 | 4.8 | 9.0 | 4.8 |
| Kenya | 1.71 | 6.5 | 5.4 | 10.2 | -1.0 |
| Yugoslavia | 1.71 | 5.8 | 2.8 | 7.1 | 3.9 |
| Colombia | 1.71 | 5.9 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 1.9 |
| Ethiopia | 1.86 | 2.0 | 0.7 | 1.4 | -1.7 |
| Indonesia | 1.86 | 7.8 | 3.8 | 11.1 | 8.7 |
| India | 1.86 | 3.6 | 1.9 | 4.5 | 3.7 |
| Sri Lanka | 1.86 | 4.1 | 2.8 | 4.0 | -2.4 |
| Brazil | 1.86 | 8.4 | 4.9 | 9.3 | 7.5 |
| Bolivia | 2.29 | 4.8 | 3.1 | 6.3 | -1.5 |
| Ivory Coast | 2.14 | 6.7 | 3.4 | 10.5 | 4.8 |
| Egypt | 2.14 | 7.4 | 2.7 | 5.8 | -0.7 |
| Turkey | 2.14 | 5.9 | 3.4 | 6.8 | 1.7 |
| Senegal | 2.29 | 2.5 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 1.2 |
| Pakistan | 2.29 | 4.7 | 2.3 | 5.2 | 1.2 |
| Jamaica | 2.29 | -1.1 | 0.7 | -3.5 | -8.8 |
| Uruguay | 2.29 | 3.5 | 0.2 | 5.2 | 4.8 |
| Peru | 2.29 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 3.7 | 3.9 |
| Argentina | 2.43 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 1.8 | 8.3 |
| Chile | 2.43 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 0.2 | 10.9 |
| Tanzania | 2.57 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | -7.3 |
| Bangladesh | 2.57 | 3.9 | 2.2 | 9.5 | -1.9 |
| Nigeria | 2.71 | 6.5 | 0.8 | 8.1 | 2.8 |
| Ghana | 2.86 | -0.1 | -1.2 | -1.2 | -8.4 |
| Overall ave | 2.01 | 5.0 | 3.0 | 6.1 | 3.5 |

Source: World Bank, *World Development Report 1983*

The crucial point here is that Third World governments are more vulnerable to pressure for policy changes, whether from multilateral bodies or from individual governments, than they have been in the whole post-colonial period. The experience of Brazil, Mexico and other heavily indebted countries demonstrates, moreover, that this pressure will be applied.

No doubt the willingness to exploit the weakness of Third World countries also stems from a gradual loss of guilt in the West about the colonial era. Moreover, conservative administrations in Britain and the United States have played their part in altering attitudes.

In Britain, for example, aid budgets have been cut and official spending on education about

development, a pet project of Mrs Judith Hart, when she was Minister for Overseas Development in the last Labour government, has virtually ceased.

The examples can be multiplied internationally. The funding crisis of the International Development Association, the concessional loan arm of the World Bank, has arisen partly from suspicions on Capitol Hill that aid money is not well spent. But this change - or the strengthening of earlier attitudes - has not occurred in a theoretical vacuum.

The first strand in the intellectual counter-revolution is the reassertion of pre-Keynesian ideas. It is to be expected that monetarism, supply-siders, and the other conservative thinkers - not all of whose ideas are old - would oppose the state trading

corporations, protection, and overblown bureaucracies which undoubtedly characterize many Third World governments.

But a more cogent *tour d'horizon* has been published by the right-wing Institute of Economic Affairs in London. It is all the more powerful for not advancing a crude laissez-faire approach. Put as an elegant polemic, the argument is that several influential postwar thinkers such as Arthur Lewis, Ragnar Nurkse, and Gunnar Myrdal founded development economics on the assumption that the neo-classical emphasis on relative prices was inappropriate to the developing world.

Their reasons for rejecting relatively open economies as the path to growth were legion: left to the mercies of the market, developing countries would suffer perpetual foreign shortages, demand for commodities would be insufficient to prevent adverse terms of trade, the technological lead in metropolitan countries would stifle infant Third World industries, and foreign capital, whether portfolio investment or even aid, was inherently exploitative.

The remedies are familiar. Trade barriers were erected to protect industries and exchange controls introduced to conserve foreign currency. Compulsory agreements were instituted and governments demanded control over investment. Indeed, the whole apparatus, it is maintained, inescapably implied big government.

Unfortunately, big government was the one thing developing countries could not supply. The shortages of skilled labour, the poor infrastructure, and lack of an administrative culture affected governments as much as business - a point easily overlooked.

The empirical evidence, the second strand is hard to ignore. The table shows that those countries which adopted a relatively open economy generally fared best. The fact that the fastest growing countries started from different bases and are spread across several continents suggests that their colonial experiences, culture and history are not the most important factors. The evidence seems to be that even supposedly benighted peasants

exploit the comparative advantage of different prices.

The national empirical evidence has been supported by studies of particular economic sectors. For some years, the World Bank and other agencies have quietly inveighed against food prices which discriminate against farmers in favour of urban consumers, or against overvalued exchange rates, or state corporations which are unresponsive to producers and consumers. The table illustrates the relationship between price distortion and growth.

Perhaps the most telling attacks on the development orthodoxy, however, have come from within developing countries themselves. The third strand, Delivering the Fourth Harry G. Johnson Memorial Lecture in July, Mr Goh Keng Swee, First Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, said: "The LDC strategy of achieving growth through import substitution industrialization encourages corruption... Domestic markets which have to be protected by shut-out tariffs are small in relation to plant capacity in most manufacturing processes. This usually leads to the establishment of monopolies since one enterprise can often serve market demand."

Yet it is not a straight fight between laissez-faire and state cash. Rather, the greatest strength of the new criticism of development economics is that it recognizes the impossibility of perfect competition. The IEA study emphasizes the use of welfare economics - that branch of economics which analyses the optimum way of achieving a desired end. It very reasonably points out that the welfare approach does not prejudice the issue: intervention may be the answer, but equally doing nothing could be the best course.

In practice, the most obvious consequence of the new thinking is simply the idea that aid or assistance is less valuable if developing countries do not put their own house in order. This attitude was underlined, for instance, the call by IDA for extra lending to sub-Saharan Africa. The counter-revolution has already scored small victories; it may not march on to greater ones.

"Deepak Lal: The Poverty of Development Economics: IEA, £3.00

Industrial notebook

Disaster lurking in geographical aid

Many years ago, the Rootes Group - later to become Chrysler UK and now the French-owned Talbot company - invited a group of journalists to partake of liquid refreshments aboard a railway train in the middle of Coventry. The idea was to show a new deal that had been struck with British Rail to operate a special rail link between Coventry and the new showpiece car factory at Linwood in Scotland.

The company was coy about the financial aspects of the arrangement but was at pains to describe the virtues of the rapid two-way link which would ferry Coventry-made cars and pieces all the way to south-west Glasgow. To many, however, the idea seemed ludicrous at the time and, with hindsight, it must have played a significant part in the downfall of the company.

Not that it was a disaster, but it was a disaster in the making. It was blamed for trying to recoup some of the loss associated with the Linwood operation: the company had little choice but to attempt to make the best of a piece of regional policy madness that drove it against its better judgment to Scotland when it would have been more sensible to stay in the Midlands.

Now, the wheel of fate has turned full circle and it is the West Midlands itself, once the industrial heartland, that is in danger of being designated an assisted area.

No region, particularly the West Midlands with its history of independence and prosperity, wants to be associated with charity. Regional development aid has the stigma that sticks to the handout, and creating a so-called intermediate area centred on the West Midlands would, in many people's views, be a disaster.

But this appears to be one of the chief remedies for the region's ill now being considered by Mr Norman Lamont, the Industry Minister. It has emerged from the long-awaited review of regional policy ordered by the Government last year and is apparently giving rise to much opposition both among other ministers and in the West Midlands.

The danger, the opponents maintain, is that the Government will once again fall into the trap of providing aid on a non-selective geographical basis. The Linwood factory failed, and placed in jeopardy the British Steel Corporation's Ravenscroft works, because it was too far

from the traditional centre of motor industry output.

The Rootes experience is, unfortunately, not unique and now, simply to pour money into a region in a non-selective fashion must, during a recession, be foolish.

Who would be attracted to the West Midlands if it got down-and-out status? Some companies bribed into the wilderness in the past would return to the Midlands like a shot if the non-discretionary 15 per cent grants became available. But that would do little to help in the long-term creation of a new industrial structure.

The regional policy review, begun last year by a team headed by Mr Michael Quinlan, then a deputy secretary at the Treasury and now permanent secretary at the Department of Employment, will not be complete before next month or November and any new regional legislation is not expected before next year.

The importance of the study, now being led by Mr Quinlan's successor, Mr John Butler, cannot be overemphasized. As the country emerges from the horrors of recession, getting regional policy right will be crucial to industrial revival.

And the West Midlands is the key. Not only is it at the heart of the nation's communications network. It also has a long and deep tradition of hard-work skills and a flexible workforce. More than a third of a million jobs have been lost in the last three years.

"Mr West Midlands", the junior industry minister, Mr John Butler, is said to favour a radical rethink of regional aid. This could involve the dismantling of the present policy, which discriminates against regions like the West Midlands, and using the funds thus freed to provide selective industrial aid.

There are, of course, grants available for the introduction of robots and micro-electronics and while these may be of benefit, for example, to the motor industry, they are not designed specifically for it.

Assistance towards a rationalization of the motor component sector - one of the West Midlands mainstays - coupled with, say, halving of the maximum 10 per cent max. in addition to VAT, on new cars probably would work wonders for the region.

Edward Townsend

| 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1984-85 | 1985-86 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 | 1988-89 | 1989-90 | 1990-91 | 1991-92 | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-00 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | 2029-30 | 2030-31 | 2031-32 | 2032-33 | 2033-34 | 2034-35 | 2035-36 | 2036-37 | 2037-38 | 2038-39 | 2039-40 | 2040-41 | 2041-42 | 2042-43 | 2043-44 | 2044-45 | 2045-46 | 2046-47 | 2047-48 | 2048-49 | 2049-50 | 2050-51 | 2051-52 | 2052-53 | 2053-54 | 2054-55 | 2055-56 | 2056-57 | 2057-58 | 2058-59 | 2059-60 | 2060-61 | 2061-62 | 2062-63 | 2063-64 | 2064-65 | 2065-66 | 2066-67 | 2067-68 | 2068-69 | 2069-70 | 2070-71 | 2071-72 | 2072-73 | 2073-74 | 2074-75 | 2075-76 | 2076-77 | 2077-78 | 2078-79 | 2079-80 | 2080-81 | 2081-82 | 2082-83 | 2083-84 | 2084-85 | 2085-86 | 2086-87 | 2087-88 | 2088-89 | 2089-90 | 2090-91 | 2091-92 | 2092-93 | 2093-94 | 2094-95 | 2095-96 | 2096-97 | 2097-98 | 2098-99 | 2099-00 | 2100-01 | 2101-02 | 2102-03 | 2103-04 | 2104-05 | 2105-06 | 2106-07 | 2107-08 | 2108-09 | 2109-10 | 2110-11 | 2111-12 | 2112-13 | 2113-14 | 2114-15 | 2115-16 | 2116-17 | 2117-18 | 2118-19 | 2119-20 | 2120-21 | 2121-22 | 2122-23 | 2123-24 | 2124-25 | 2125-26 | 2126-27 | 2127-28 | 2128-29 | 2129-30 | 2130-31 | 2131-32 | 2132-33 | 2133-34 | 2134-35 | 2135-36 | 2136-37 | 2137-38 | 2138-39 | 2139-40 | 2140-41 | 2141-42 | 2142-43 | 2143-44 | 2144-45 | 2145-46 | 2146-47 | 2147-48 | 2148-49 | 2149-50 | 2150-51 | 2151-52 | 2152-53 | 2153-54 | 2154-55 | 2155-56 | 2156-57 | 2157-58 | 2158-59 | 2159-60 | 2160-61 | 2161-62 | 2162-63 | 2163-64 | 2164-65 | 2165-66 | 2166-67 | 2167-68 | 2168-69 | 2169-70 | 2170-71 | 2171-72 | 2172-73 | 2173-74 | 2174-75 | 2175-76 | 2176-77 | 2177-78 | 2178-79 | 2179-80 | 2180-81 | 2181-82 | 2182-83 | 2183-84 | 2184-85 | 2185-86 | 2186-87 | 2187-88 | 2188-89 | 2189-90 | 2190-91 | 2191-92 | 2192-93 | 2193-94 | 2194-95 | 2195-96 | 2196-97 | 2197-98 | 2198-99 | 2199-00 | 2200-01 | 2201-02 | 2202-03 | 2203-04 | 2204-05 | 2205-06 | 2206-07 | 2207-08 | 2208-09 | 2209-10 | 2210-11 | 2211-12 | 2212-13 | 2213-14 | 2214-15 | 2215-16 | 2216-17 | 2217-18 | 2218-19 | 2219-20 | 2220-21 | 2221-22 | 2222-23 | 2223-24 | 2224-25 | 2225-26 | 2226-27 | 2227-28 | 2228-29 | 2229-30 | 2230-31 | 2231-32 | 2232-33 | 2233-34 | 2234-35 | 2235-36 | 2236-37 | 2237-38 | 2238-39 | 2239-40 | 2240-41 | 2241-42 | 2242-43 | 2243-44 | 2244-45 | 2245-46 | 2246-47 | 2247-48 | 2248-49 | 2249-50 | 2250-51 | 2251-52 | 2252-53 | 2253-54 | 2254-55 | 2255-56 | 2256-57 | 2257-58 | 2258-59 | 2259-60 | 2260-61 | 2261-62 | 2262-63 | 2263-64 | 2264-65 | 2265-66 | 2266-67 | 2267-68 | 2268-69 | 2269-70 | 2270-71 | 2271-72 | 2272-73 | 2273-74 | 2274-75 | 2275-76 | 2276-77 | 2277-78 | 2278-79 | 2279-80 | 2280-81 | 2281-82 | 2282-83 | 2283-84 | 2284-85 | 2285-86 | 2286-87 | 2287-88 | 2288-89 | 2289-90 | 2290-91 | 2291-92 | 2292-93 | 2293-94 | 2294-95 | 2295-96 | 2296-97 | 2297-98 | 2298-99 | 2299-00 | 2300-01 | 2301-02 | 2302-03 | 2303-04 | 2304-05 | 2305-06 | 2306-07 | 2307-08 | 2308-09 | 2309-10 | 2310-11 | 2311-12 | 2312-13 | 2313-14 | 2314-15 | 2315-16 | 2316-17 | 2317-18 | 2318-19 | 2319-20 | 2320-21 | 2321-22 | 2322-23 | 2323-24 | 2324-25 | 2325-26 | 2326-27 | 2327-28 | 2328-29 | 2329-30 | 2330-31 | 2331-32 | 2332-33 | 2333-34 | 2334-35 | 2335-36 | 2336-37 | 2337-38 | 2338-39 | 2339-40 | 2340-41 | 2341-42 | 2342-43 | 2343-44 | 2344-45 | 2345-46 | 2346-47 | 2347-48 | 2348-49 | 2349-50 | 2350-51 | 2351-52 | 2352-53 | 2353-54 | 2354-55 | 2355-56 | 2356-57 | 2357-58 | 2358-59 | 2359-60 | 2360-61 | 2361-62 | 2362-63 | 2363-64 | 2364-65 | 2365-66 | 2366-67 | 2367-68 | 2368-69 | 2369-70 | 2370-71 | 2371-72 | 2372-73 | 2373-74 | 2374-75 | 2375-76 | 2376-77 | 2377-78 | 2378-79 | 2379-80 | 2380-81 | 2381-82 | 2382-83 | 2383-84 | 2384-85 | 2385-86 | 2386-87 | 2387-88 | 2388-89 | 2389-90 | 2390-91 | 2391-92 | 2392-93 | 2393-94 | 2394-95 | 2395-96 | 2396-97 | 2397-98 | 2398-99 | 2399-00 | 2400-01 | 2401-02 | 2402-03 | 2403-04 | 2404-05 | 2405-06 | 2406-07 | 2407-08 | 2408-09 | 2409-10 | 2410-11 | 2411-12 | 2412-13 | 2413-14 | 2414-15 | 2415-16 | 2416-17 | 2417-18 | 2418-19 | 2419-20 | 2420-21 | 2421-22 | 2422-23 | 2423-24 | 2424-25 | 2425-26 | 2426-27 | 2427-28 | 2428-29 | 2429-30 | 2430-31 | 2431-32 | 2432-33 | 2433-34 | 2434-35 | 2435-36 | 2436-37 | 2437-38 | 2438-39 | 2439-40 | 2440-41 | 2441-42 | 2442-43 | 2443-44 | 2444-45 | 2445-46 | 2446-47 | 2447-48 | 2448-49 | 2449-50 | 2450-51 | 2451-52 | 2452-53 | 2453-54 | 2454-55 | 2455-56 | 2456-57 | 2457-58 | 2458-59 | 2459-60 | 2460-61 | 2461-62 | 2462-63 | 2463-64 | 2464-65 | 2465-66 | 2466-67 | 2467-68 | 2468-69 | 2469-70 | 2470-71 | 2471-72 | 2472-73 | 2473-74 | 2474-75 | 2475-76 | 2476-77 | 2477-78 | 2478-79 | 2479-80 | 2480-81 | 2481-82 | 2482-83 | 2483-84 | 2484-85 | 2485-86 | 2486-87 | 2487-88 | 2488-89 | 2489-90 | 2490-91 | 2491-92 | 2492-93 | 2493-94 | 2494-95 | 2495-96 | 2496-97 | 2497-98 | 2498-99 | 2499-00 | 2500-01 | 2501-02 | 2502-03 | 2503-04 | 2504-05 | 2505-06 | 2506-07 | 2507-08 | 2508-09 | 2509-10 | 2510-11 | 2511-12 | 2512-13 | 2513-14 | 2514-15 | 2515-16 | 2516-17 | 2517-18 | 2518-19 | 2519-20 | 2520-21 | 2521-22 | 2522-23 | 2523-24 | 2524-25 | 2525-26 | 2526-27 | 2527-28 | 2528-29 | 2529-30 | 2530-31 | 2531-32 | 2532-33 | 2533-34 | 2534-35 | 2535-36 | 2536-37 | 2537-38 | 2538-39 | 2539-40 | 2540-41 | 2541-42 | 2542-43 | 2543-44 | 2544-45 | 2545-46 | 2546-47 | 2547-48 | 2548-49 | 2549-50 | 2550-51 | 2551-52 | 2552-53 | 2553-54 | 2554-55 | 2555-56 | 2556-57 | 2557-58 | 2558-59 | 2559-60 | 2560-61 | 2561-62 | 2562-63 | 2563-64 | 2564-65 | 2565-66 | 2566-67 | 2567-68 | 2568-69 | 2569-70 | 2570-71 | 2571-72 | 2572-73 | 2573-74 | 2574-75 | 2575-76 | 2576-77 | 2577-78 | 2578-79 | 2579-80 | 2580-81 | 2581-82 | 2582-83 | 2583-84 | 2584-85 | 2585-86 | 2586-87 | 2587-88 | 2588-89 | 2589-90 | 2590-91 | 2591-92 | 2592-93 | 2593-94 | 2594-95 | 2595-96 | 2596-97 | 2597-98 | 2598-99 | 2599-00 | 2600-01 | 2601-02 | 2602-03 | 2603-04 | 2604-05 | 2605-06 | 2606-07 | 2607-08 | 2608-09 | 2609-10 | 2610-11 | 2611-12 | 2612-13 | 2613-14 | 2614-15 | 2615-16 | 2616-17 | 2617-18 | 2618-19 | 2619-20 | 2620-21 | 2621-22 | 2622-23 | 2623-24 | 2624-25 | 2625-26 | 2626-27 | 2627-28 | 2628-29 | 2629-30 | 2630-31 | 2631-32 | 2632-33 | 2633-34 | 2634-35 | 2635-36 | 2636-37 | 2637-38 | 2638-39 | 2639-40 | 2640-41 | 2641-42 | 2642-43 | 2643-44 | 2644-45 | 2645-46 | 2646-47 | 2647-48 | 2648-49 | 2649-50 | 2650-51 | 2651-52 | 2652-53 | 2653-54 | 2654-55 | 2655-56 | 2656-57 | 2657-58 | 2658-59 | 2659-60 | 2660-61 | 2661-62 | 2662-63 | 2663-64 | 2664-65 | 2665-66 | 2666-67 | 2667-68 | 2668-69 | 2669-70 | 2670-71 | 2671-72 | 2672-73 | 2673-74 | 2674-75 | 2675-76 | 2676-77 | 2677-78 | 2678-79 | 2679-80 | 2680-81 | 2681-82 | 2682-83 | 2683-84 | 2684-85 | 2685-86 | 2686-87 | 2687-88 | 2688-89 | 2689-90 | 2690-91 | 2691-92 | 2692-93 | 2693-94 | 2694-95 | 2695-96 | 2696-97 | 2697-98 | 2698-99 | 2699-00 | 2700-01 | 2701-02 | 2702-03 | 2703-04 | 2704-05 | 2705-06 | 2706-07 | 2707-08 | 2708-09 | 2709-10 | 2710-11 | 2711-12 | 2712-13 | 2713-14 | 2714-15 | 2715-16 | 2716-17 | 2717-18 | 2718-19 | 2719-20 | 2720-21 | 2721-22 | 2722-23 | 2723-24 | 2724-25 | 2725-26 | 2726-27 | 2727-28 | 2728-29 | 2729-30 | 2730-31 | 2731-32 | 2732-33 | 2733-34 | 2734-35 | 2735-36 | 2736-37 | 2737-38 | 2738-39 | 2739-40 | 2740-41 | 2741-42 | 2742-43 | 2743-44 | 2744-45 | 2745-46 | 2746-47 | 2747-48 | 2748-49 | 2749-50 | 2750-51 | 2751-52 | 2752-53 | 2753-54 | 2754-55 | 2755-56 | 2756-57 | 2757-58 | 2758-59 | 2759-60 | 2760-61 | 2761-62 | 2762-63 | 2763-64 | 2764-65 | 2765-66 | 2766-67 | 2767-68 | 2768-69 | 2769-70 | 2770-71 | 2771-72 | 2772-73 | 2773-74 | 2774-75 | 2775-76 | 2776-77 | 2777-78 | 2778-79 | 2779-80 | 2780-81 | 2781-82 | 2782-83 | 2783-84 | 2784-85 | 2785-86 | 2786-87 | 2787-88 | 2788-89 | 2789-90 | 2790-91 | 2791-92 | 2792-93 | 2793-94 | 2794-95 | 2795-96 | 2796-97 | 2797-98 | 2798-99 | 2799-00 | 2800-01 | 2801-02 | 2802-03 | 2803-04 | 2804-05 | 2805-06 | 2806-07 | 2807-08 | 2808-09 | 2809-10 | 2810-11 | 2811-12 | 2812-13 | 2813-14 | 2814-15 | 2815-16 | 2816-17 | 2817-18 | 2818-19 | 2819-20 | 2820-21 | 2821-22 | 2822-23 | 2823-24 | 2824-25 | 2825-26 | 2826-27 | 2827-28 | 2828-29 | 2829-30 | 2830-31 | 2831-32 | 2832-33 | 2833-34 | 2834-35 | 2835-36 | 2836-37 | 2837-38 | 2838-39 | 2839-40 | 2840-41 | 2841-42 | 2842-43 | 2843-44 | 2844-45 | 2845-46 | 2846-47 | 2847-48 | 2848-49 | 2849-50 | 2850-51 | 2851-52 | 2852-53 | 2853-54 | 2854-55 | 2855-56 | 2856-57 | 2857-58 | 2858-59 | 2859-60 | 2860-61 | 2861-62 | 2862-63 | 2863-64 | 2864-65 | 2865-66 | 2866-67 | 2867-68 | 2868-69 | 2869-70 | 2870-71 | 2871-72 | 2872-73 | 2873-74 | 2874-75 | 2875-76 | 2876-77 | 2877-78 | 2878-79 | 2879-80 | 2880-81 | 2881-82 | 2882-83 | 2883-84 | 2884-85 | 2885-86 | 2886-87 | 2887-88 | 2888-89 | 2889-90 | 2890-91 | 2891-92 | 2892-93 | 2893-94 | 2894-95 | 2895-96 | 2896-97 | 2897-98 | 2898-99 | 2899-00 | 2900-01 | 2901-02 | 2902-03 | 2903-04 | 2904-05 | 2905-06 | 2906-07 | 2907-08 | 2908-09 | 2909-10 | 2910-11 | 2911-12 | 2912-13 | 2913-14 | 2914-15 | 2915-16 | 2916-17 | 2917-18 | 2918-19 | 2919-20 | 2920-21 | 2921-22 | 2922-23 | 2923-24 | 2924-25 | 2925-26 | 2926-27 | 2927-28 | 2928-29 | 2929-30 | 2930-31 | 2931-32 | 2932-33 | 2933-34 | 2934-35 | 2935-36 | 2936-37 | 2937-38 | 2938-39 | 2939-40 | 2940-41 | 2941-42 | 2942-43 | 2943-44 | 2944-45 | 2945-46 | 2946-47 | 2947-48 | 2948-49 | 2949-50 | 2950-51 | 2951-52 | 2952-53 | 2953-54 | 2954-55 | 2955-56 | 2956-57 | 2957-58 | 2958-59 | 2959-60 | 2960-61 | 2961-62 | 2962-63 | 2963-64 | 2964-65 | 2965-66 | 2966-67 | 2967-68 | 2968-69 | 2969-70 | 2970-71 | 2971-72 | 2972-73 | 2973-74 | 2974-75 | 2975-76 | 2976-77 | 2977-78 | 2978-79 | 2979-80 | 2980-81 | 2981-82 | 2982-83 | 2983-84 | 2984-85 | 2985-86 | 2986-87 | 2987-88 | 2988-89 | 2989-90 | 2990-91 | 2991-92 | 2992-93 | 2993-94 | 2994-95 | 2995-96 | 2996-97 | 2997-98 | 2998-99 | 2999-00 | 3000-01 | 3001-02 | 3002-03 | 3003-04 | 3004-05 | 3005-06 | 3006-07 | 3007-08 | 3008-09 | 3009-10 | 3010-11 | 3011-12 | 3012-13 | 3013-1 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

BP shares rally by 8p

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Sept 5. Dealings end, Sept 16. Contango Day, Sept 19. Settlement Day, Sept 26.

Dealers signed, with relief yesterday when the expected details of the Government's £50m sell-off of shares in BP failed to materialize. But with the details now expected next week investors withdrew to the sidelines.

Shares of BP spent a less anxious day, rallying 8p to 438p after the announcement of its proposed sale of 12 per cent of its cherished stake in the Forties Field, which is expected to raise £250m.

Elsewhere, prices barely stirred with the FT index closing 1.2 up at 713.6, having opened 2.4 up. Among leading industrials, BICC was up to 331p after figures, Associated Dairies rose 2p to 173p, BOC Group 3p to 227p, Cadbury Schweppes 2p to 100p, and Thermo KMI 3p to 621p. But Class 6 fell 10p to 795p, Glad Metropolitan 3p to 322p, Hawker Siddeley 4p to 298p and Bowater 2p to 213p.

It was again left to Government securities to make all the running in the belief that there will be a cut soon in interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic. This comes after the better-than-expected money supply figures this week.

Rises of about 50p were reported in longs, but by the close

this had been trimmed by 25p on profit-taking.

The Government broker had been able to supply more top stocks, despite issuing three tranches totalling £300m on Wednesday.

On the foreign exchange the

source of the leaks and the Stock Exchange said its was launching a routine preliminary inquiry.

Shares of Eglinton Oil & Gas, the Irish exploration group, rose further 20p to 255p yesterday helped by a single large buyer from Dublin who was prepared to pay generously for the shares.

Apparently the group has made a large oil find in Colombia and one broker estimates the shares could hit 400p a share by the end of this account. The market is now waiting anxiously for more details.

On the Unilever Securities Market shares of Spring Ram, the bathroom and kitchen equipment manufacturer, showed no sign of running out of steam. The shares rose 10p to 164p on the back of a recent bullish broker's circular commending the shares.

On Monday the shares stood at 140p compared with April's listing price of 105p.

Little Arlen Electrical added 2p to 180p still benefiting from this

week's visit to brokers Kemp Mitchell who think the shares still have some way to go.

Eagle Star has certainly been put at the centre of a number of rumours this week. According to market pundits the German Broker Illingworth & Henrichs has produced a buy circular on Eagle Star, the group is well on target to meet the £500,000 forecast in the current year and according to Illingworth should achieve £700,000 in 1984. The shares rose 1p to 136p yesterday after 133p placing price of 134p.

Insurance group Allianz is about to sell its 30 per cent stake in Eagle to a South African buyer, who will then bid 700p a share for the remainder, valuing the entire company at £946m.

Meanwhile, Allianz would in turn bid for BTR's subsidiary, Cornhill Insurance, which Tho-

mas Tilling was prepared to part with as part of its defence against the unwelcome attentions of BTR.

Last night a spokesman for Eagle Star said, "You have nearly woven together all the rumours we have heard. Shares of Eagle Star closed unchanged at 438p, while BTR lost 2p to 534p."

Shares of Scottish & Newcastle were a firm feature climbing 3p to 85p after a broker's visit to the company on Wednesday. The analyst appeared impressed with what he saw and had upgraded his full-year profits forecast from £46m to £50m, compared with £41m last time.

The hotel side of the business is booming in London and the provinces, while beer volume in May and June was ahead of last year. The long dry summer could result in beer sales 10 per cent up last month.

Close observers now estimate there could be as much as a 12p rise in the share price - still shy of the year's high.

The electrical analysts are recommending investors to switch from Plessey into Racal as the Plessey price continues to lose ground. This was good news for Racal yesterday, 10p up at 232p, but Plessey managed only a 2p rise to 198p.

| RECENT ISSUES | | Closing Price |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| Astronic Group 25p Ord (1156) | | 134 |
| Burns International & Finance 25p Ord | | 93 |
| Biotechnology 10p Ord (94) | | 153-2 |
| DPCE Holdings 5p Ord (97) | | 240 |
| Clerk (S&P) 10p Ord (100) | | 186-2 |
| Modernair Administration 25p Ord (375*) | | 333 |
| Geni (S&P) 10p Ord (118) | | 313 |
| Park Food 10p Ord (95*) | | 196 |
| Park Films 25p Ord (101) | | 206 |
| Norwest Supreme 25p Ord (205e) | | 184 |
| Real Time Control 5p Ord (148e) | | 104-1 |
| SCUSA 50.01 (185) | | 88-1 |
| Southern Business Printing 10p Ord (E35) | | 166-1 |
| Technology for Business 10p Ord (100a) | | 86-1 |
| Telecom 25p Ord (E3e) | | 156 |
| United Leisure 5p Ord (94) | | |
| United States of America Limited Securities | * by tender. | |

Troubled Sturla hopes for listing

By Derek Pals

Troubled financial group Sturla Holdings hopes to regain its stock market share listing in November following publication of its 1983 accounts. The shares were suspended in March at 4½p.

Yesterday, at a 90-minute shareholders' meeting to approve the accounts for the 15 months to end April 1983, Mr. David Britton, the chairman, said the company was trading at a modest profit but the still-to-be audited accounts for the year to last April were expected to disclose a loss of about £450,000.

In the 15-month period when Sturla was rocked by a series of misfortunes, there was a loss of more than £2m.

Mr. Britton, who replaced Mr. Robert Knight, a financier, as chairman in April, told the 80 shareholders at London's Grosvenor House Hotel that he had inherited "almost insurmountable problems".

He said he hoped to strengthen the board - Mr. William Starkey, the secretary, is the only other director - and moves were afoot for the appointment of a non-executive director with a merchant banking background.

But Sturla, which hoped to link shortly with a licensed deposit-taker, was in need of cash for further expansion.

One likely development, said Mr. Starkey, was the acquisition of shares of properties. It would then be possible to mortgage the properties and therefore pump cash into the business.

IMF conference

Howe's act will be difficult for EEC ministers to follow

From Ian Murray, Brussels

One of the most powerful cardinals in the world descends on the mountainous island once given to Cephalus, God of the Morning Star, tomorrow to plot continuing control of the world's economy.

These are the ten finance ministers of the EEC, whose informal meeting on Kephallonia over the weekend is likely to concentrate on how to fund the International Monetary Fund at a time when the world is acutely suspicious of American influence and badly in need of firm leadership.

This informal meeting will, therefore, carefully prepare a joint EEC approach for the IMF's meeting at the end of the month. It is also likely to choose from among its number the man it wants to succeed Sir Geoffrey Howe in the powerful position of chairman of the IMF's interim committee.

The EEC members have learnt the hard way that only by pulling the purse strings tight is it possible to purge inflation and keep out recession among the finance ministers at the weekend meeting are several acknowledged experts at this type of tight control, which the Community believes is still necessary if the present feeble economic revival is to have any chance of survival.

Sir Geoffrey Howe will be a difficult man to follow. He had established himself as a financial statesman and had the ear of the American administration as well as the respect of his EEC colleagues. They will be looking very much for someone in his mould to take over the job, aware that their choice is more than likely to take over the chair.

This is because, in the world's of a Brussels diplomat this week, "the United States has very unhappy relationships with other major Western countries on the monetary front at the moment. The almighty dollar has become much too almighty".



de Clercq: passion for high finance

As far as developing countries are concerned it seems certain that they will continue to respect the tradition by which the chairman of the interim committee comes from the industrialized world, while they provide the chairman of the IMF's development committee. The name most canvassed for the job is that of Mr. Willy de

Clercq, the crinkle-haired lawyer who has been involved in running Belgium's finances at one level or another almost since he entered politics 25 years ago.

A workaholic, with an apparent passion for high finance, he is the inspiration of the revival in the fortunes of the very conservative Flemish Liberal Party and the implacable executioner of the present Belgian Government's extremely tough austerity programme. He has provided himself an expert at making his electors swallow bitter pills in a way which even Mrs. Thatcher might envy.

His wide knowledge of finance makes him an imposing candidate for the IMF job, and he never seems to stop trying to learn. He lists his favourite pastime as reading, but he reads virtually no fiction and instead thumbs through international monetary reports for pleasure.

Like many leading Belgian politicians, he is a true polyglot, and slips effortlessly in and out of four languages, while his master's degree at Syracuse University, New York, has given him a feel for the American way of doing things.

A leading light in the European Liberal and Democratic Party, he has spent this week in Spain talking to Spanish Liberals and coyly refusing to talk about his chances of landing the IMF job.

His chief rival for the post has also been too busy preparing his national budget to talk about the IMF. His is Ciriaco De Mita, the Dutch Minister, who has turned his deep academic background to quick political effect since taking over control of his country's finances scarcely ten months ago.

Mr. Ruding was aged 26 when he was appointed to head of the international monetary affairs division of the Dutch Treasury. Then, after five years in banking, he went to Washington to serve as executive director of the IMF in Washington, a post he left in 1980. He can claim therefore, to

have an exceptionally good inside knowledge of the fund's workings, although he is a relative newcomer to frontbench politics.

Whoever the cartel on Kephallonia decides on, however, Sir Geoffrey's successor can be expected to carry on down the "virtuous path" which he always claimed he was following.

The IMF's next meeting is due to concentrate on how much it can afford to increase its help on offer without damaging the fledgling recovery in the industrialized world. The EEC view is that there can be no concessions made which would do anything to undermine that recovery if there is to be any long-term chances of putting the world to rights.

To this purpose, the weekend meeting will also be spending a lot of time looking at the Community's own economic situation and seeing how it is standing up to the continuing strains caused by what ministers believe is a ridiculously high-priced dollar.

Mr. Francois-Xavier Ortoli, the Finance Commissioner, will be putting forward a careful paper studying the implications of the Williamsburg economic summit. He will be looking particularly at the call made there for a world monetary conference to find a replacement for the Bretton Woods arrangement.

Although such a conference is unlikely to be possible for a long time, the ministers are increasingly aware of the need to do something to control the dollar if they are to be able to plan ahead properly.

In this context, Mr. Nigel Lawson, the British Chancellor, is likely to face further pressure from Britain to join fully in the European Monetary System. The familiar argument will run that until sterling joins, the EMS will be unable to take on the dollar as anything like an equal. Mr. Lawson is unlikely to be secured by the argument.

Canadians use French tactics to stop imports

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

British exporters of up-market overcoats and jumpers are demanding that the Government takes immediate action to counter what are regarded as blatantly unfair import restrictions by Canada.

In a move reminiscent of the recent French action to limit imports of video tape recorders by insisting they be delivered to only one inaccessible location, the Canadians have reduced the number of customs officers empowered to clear clothing imports to just 26.

The resulting delays, designed to bring down imports of shirts, blouses, skirts, and other low-cost cotton clothing from the Far East, is causing anguish to British manufacturers of cold weather garments such as overcoats, jackets and knitwear. As winter approaches, they claim that they are in danger of missing the vital selling season.

The Canadian action, which could cause another dent in the souring trade relations between North America and the European Community, follows the introduction of special measures last month that allow only those customs officers who have received "special training" to clear clothing shipments.

Montreal now has only six such officers, Toronto has five and Vancouver three, with the remaining 12 scattered around all other Canadian entry points.

In a letter sent this week to Mr. Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Industry and Trade, Mr. Norman Sussman, chairman of the British Clothing Industry Association, says that the motivation is the refusal of some of Canada's main Far East suppliers to modify their sales under the terms of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement.

But to comply with the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Canada is applying the restriction to all imports and because UK sales are concentrated in the second half of the year they will be hit severely.

Canada bought £8.6m worth of clothes from Britain last year and £4.5m in the first six months of this year - a rise of one third. While this accounts for only 1 per cent of total UK clothing exports of £840m, it is made up almost entirely of high value, classic-styled outerwear which, the association emphasized, was already subject to Canadian import tariffs of up to 25 per cent.

Oxford Instruments ahead with scanner

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A medical screening invention which could make X-rays obsolete is behind the success of Oxford Instruments Group, probably the most successful private company in Britain and which is preparing to go public.

The company has built an international lead in equipment for advanced medical applications and laboratory research and industrial electronics.

Its success with super-magnets and cryogenic (very low temperature) systems lies behind a revolution which is taking place in medical screening.

Oxford's invention, the nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), scanner takes pictures of the whole or any part of the body, including tiny changes in the structure of the brain caused by injury or disease. It can also carry out a bioassay, or biochemical analysis, of tissues, bone or organs without taking a biopsy specimen.

NM machines are sold by medical equipment suppliers, who attach microcomputers and the cameras needed to record pictures to the NMR magnets.

NMR scanners, before the medical application, were developed for chemical research for determining the structure of large molecules, and they are now a standard equipment in large laboratories.

The business was founded in 1959 by Mr. Martin Wood, now aged 56, an engineer, then working at the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford University, which is a recognized world centre for research in physics including high magnetic fields and low temperature systems.

Mr. Wood began with his wife Audrey arranging the commercial

and financial side, in a shed at the bottom of the garden. Orders soon came from customers such as the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, the Royal Radar Establishment, and the Centre National de la Recherche, in France.

By 1965, discoveries in the field of superconductivity, or how to remove the electrical resistance of some metals by using them at temperatures of minus 270 deg Centigrade, at the Clarendon and elsewhere, were exploited by Mr. Wood's company to develop the type of superconducting magnet now at the heart of the NMR machines.

The rapid world technical lead established by Oxford Instruments led to a toasty-like growth in the first decade. In 1977 profits reached £216,000 on sales of £2.8m. Last year's sales of £17.600m produced profits just under £2m.

The group reported yesterday sales up 48 per cent to £26.150m for the year to March 27 with pretax profits of £2.710m.

Several substantial outside shareholders have put up money since 1970. The ownership is divided between Mr. Wood and his family's trust, 31 per cent; BOC, 16 per cent; investors in industry, 20 per cent; VF Investment, 10 per cent; Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, 5 per cent; present and past employees, 9 per cent; and the rest in pension and share participation schemes.

The company diversified from its dependence on making magnets into a broader range of scientific, medical and industrial automation systems after 1971.

Bestobell launches £1.3m cost cutting

By Jeremy Warner

Bestobell has embarked on a big rationalization programme in its overseas businesses and has provided £1.3m against its half year profits to pay for it.

In the first six months of this year, group pretax profits fell from £4.8m to £4.1m on sales just over £5m higher at £66.9m. The cost of the rationalization programme, which the aviation, controls and engineering group said it hopes to complete by the end of the year, has been taken after tax.

The company's shares dipped 3p to a new low for the year of 28½p after news of the profits fall. At one point this year, the shares were trading at 40½p.

BTIC continues to hold a 34 per cent stake in Bestobell - the product of an abortive takeover bid nearly three years ago. It has on more than one occasion hinted that it will come back if Bestobell does not perform but at the moment would appear to have its hands full with its recent acquisition of Thomas Tilling.

Mr. A. B. (Sandy) Marshall, chairman of Bestobell, says that there are signs that the better economic climate in Europe and the United States will continue and he expects some improvement in group trading.

The half year dividend is being held at 5.7p. At the annual meeting in May, Mr. Marshall said that appropriate measures would be taken to match capacity with

Bestobell Half-year to 2.7.83
Pretax profit £4.1m (£4.8m)
Stated earnings 14.1p (15.8p)
Turnover £66.9m (£61.8m)
Net interim dividend 5.7p (same p)
Share price 28½p down 3p

demand and to restore margin and profit to satisfactory levels relative to the limited size of the market for the company's products over the next two or three years.

Base Lending Rates

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|---|
| A&B Bank | 9 1/2 | % |
| Barclays | 9 1/2 | % |
| BCCI | 10 1/2 | % |
| Citibank Savings | 10 1/2 | % |
| Consolidated Crds | 9 1/2 | % |
| C. Hoare & Co. | 9 1/2 | % |
| Lloyds Bank | 9 1/2 | % |
| Midland Bank | 9 1/2 | % |
| Nat Westminster | 9 1/2 | % |
| TSB | 9 1/2 | % |
| Williams & Glyn's | 9 1/2 | % |

† Mortgage Base Rate
* 7 day deposits on terms of overdraft £10,000, 6% £10,000 up to £50,000, 7% £50,000 and over.

Cookson confident

By Our Financial Staff

Cookson Group, the smelting and non-ferrous fabricating group, which used to be known as Lead Industries, looks set for a big profits recovery this year. In the first half, pretax profits rose from £6.2m to £10.1m - just £1.4m lower than the depressed profits it achieved during the whole of last year. Turnover was £367.2m, against £232.2m.

The group has changed its way of accounting for depreciation, it used to provide additional depreciation on fixed assets, but said yesterday that this has created misunderstanding and a lack of comparability with the results of other companies. It has, therefore, adopted the standard accounting practice for depreciation and now shows the additional provision £2.8m during the first half of this year - after tax.

Cookson said that current indications are that it will complete the year as far ahead in profit terms of 1982 as it was at half way.

Sedgwick profits rise by 21%

By Andrew Connors

Sedgwick Group Half-year 30.6.83
Pretax profit £48.3m (£40.1m)
Stated earnings 23.4p (20.2p)
Revenue £125.3m (£108.8m)
Net interim dividend 2.75p (2.50p)
Share price 21½ up 1p. Yield 3.5%

Sedgwick Group, the largest insurance broking firm in the Lloyd's of London market, yesterday reported a 21 per cent increase in pretax profits to £48.3m in the six months to June 30. Group revenue was up by 18 per cent to £125.3m after strong growth in brokerage income.

Mr. Neil Mills, chairman, said that although the group has achieved strong growth so far this year, external factors beyond the group's control like currency changes and political influences make it difficult to forecast accurately profits in the second half. However, he said that he was cautiously optimistic about prospects.

Sedgwick was encouraged by the strong contribution from the retail insurance broking interests



Mills forecasts difficult

in Canada and South Africa. Expenses in the UK have been held to an increase of 5 per cent

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Braithwaite & Co. Engineers P.L.C.

Bridge and Constructional Engineers
Pressed Steel Tank Manufacturers

Extracts from the statement of Mr. J.A. Humphries (Chairman)

- Trading Profit increased again by 10% at £1,023,850.
- Dividend increased again to a total of 9.1p per share for the year.
- Profits achieved at Plastic Recycling Ltd. with further expansion in sales and production.
- New range of air pollution control equipment to be fabricated at Newport Works.
- All subsidiary companies contributing and another profitable year's trading expected.

| | 1983 | 1982 |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| Turnover | £11,017,000 | £9,534,000 |
| Profit before tax | 1,023,850 | 929,167 |
| Profit after tax | 819,250 | 843,667 |
| Earnings per share | 30p | 30.9p |
| Dividend | 9.1p | 8.1p |

The Secretary, Braithwaite & Co. Engineers P.L.C.
59 Church Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey KT23 3JJ.

Portals Holdings PLC

Banknote and Security Paper, Water Treatment and Engineering, Property

Results for the half year to 30th June 1983

| | Six months to 30th June 1983 | Six months to 30th June 1982 |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | £ thousands | £ thousands |
| Group Turnover | 90,061 | 81,335 |
| Group Profit before Taxation | 7,010 | 6,130 |
| Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders | 3,379 | 2,936 |
| Earnings per Ordinary Stock Unit | 18.72p | 16.27p |
| Interim Dividend (payable 30th December 1983) | 6.25p | 5.75p |

The half year

Profit before tax for the half year has risen by 14.4%.

In Papermaking market conditions remain difficult but we believe that growth in the Water Treatment and Engineering Division will continue.

Our cash resources remain strong. We have recently acquired LA Water Treatment Corporation of Los Angeles, U.S.A.



For a copy of the full interim statement apply to:
The Secretary, Portals Holdings PLC, Liverstock Mill, Whitchurch, Hants, RG28 7NR.
Telephone: 0256 82 2360.



Britannia Arrow Holdings PLC

Pre-tax profits up by 125%

Summary of Results for 6 months to 30th June, 1983

Pre-tax profits up 125% to £5.1m (1982 £2.3m)

Interim ordinary dividend increased to 1.0p net (1982 0.8p)

Earnings per share up to 3.32p (1982 1.87p)

The Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Rippon Q.C., M.P.
reports on the following features
in his Interim Statement: -



Fund management profits amounted to £3,668,000 due to record sales of units in the UK combined with substantial profit growth in Jersey.

Funds under management up from £1,200m at 31st December, 1982 to £3,000m on behalf of over 350,000 investors worldwide including 1,000 institutional clients.

Acquisition of National Employers Life Assurance Company Limited strengthens the base of the Company in the UK and will enable further expansion to take place.

Copies of the Interim Report and details of the wide range of unit trusts and investment management services, may be obtained from:
The Secretary, Britannia Arrow Holdings PLC, Salisbury House, 39 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 5QL.

RACING: RAIN UPSETS TRAINERS' PLANS AT DONCASTER

Trojan Fen exit eases the task for Lear Fan

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

With £25,000 added to the sweetest, the Laurent Perrier Champagne Stakes is the most valuable race at Doncaster today. But sadly, it has been ruined as a spectacle. Until the rain arrived yesterday there was every chance that this group two race for two-year-olds would be every bit as absorbing as tomorrow's St Leger as it would be a key pointer to next year's classics involving both Lear Fan and Trojan Fen, both of whom were unbeaten.

As such, it looked a race of singular significance. However, the pointy-nosed and rain-soaked air yesterday when Henry Cecil decided late in the afternoon to withdraw Trojan Fen on account of the changed state of the going which has been brought about by several hours of rain on a heavily watered course.

While some will argue, with a lot of justification, that good horses ought to be able to race on any kind of going other than the extremes to be fair to Cecil he has always maintained throughout the summer that Trojan Fen can only give his best when the ground is firm so much so that it happens to know that the colt knocked a joint badly in the spring when sprawling and losing his action on soft ground.

When he won at Newbury in July he even wore a protective boot over that joint just in case he

knocked it again and irritated the old injury.

With more than 100 two-year-olds in his care, Cecil has had by far the best of the exchanges in races of this nature for most of his season, but even before yesterday's disappointment, when the ground was still favouring Trojan Fen, it had become apparent to many that he might, for once, come off second best... because of Lear Fan's presence in the field.

Lear Fan has created an enormously favourable impression on both his appearances in public, which have been at Doncaster, each time. He won both races by identical margins, eight lengths, and each time he gave the impression that he would still have won had he been pulling a cart.

The second of those performances on August 27 was arguably the more significant because Lear Fan was giving 11lb to all his opponents whereas his previous race was a level-weight affair.

Those experienced race readers who compile *Raceform* are not prone to describing performances as being very impressive without a bit of being good enough. So the fact that they used those words about the way that Lear Fan trounced Gold & Ivory puts the result in a very exciting light.

My information is that Lear Fan is thought to be better at



Guy Harwood, who trains Lear Fan

Fullborough, where he is trained by Guy Harwood, that his stable companion, Rabb, who impressed him so much at Salisbury when he beat the subsequent Solario Stakes winner, Falstaff, by four lengths. In which case Lear Fan may well be capable of extending his own unbeaten record.

At least the presence of Craig-an-Sgor and Kalim in the line-up will enable handicappers, public and private alike to tie up some of the loose ends to the two-year-old form as we approach one of the most fascinating parts of the season.

The Mining Supplies Stakes can be won by Always Native now that Fagan of Troy has dropped by the wayside. Instead, Dick Hern is relying upon Round Hill who got his last race on the disqualification of Bluff Horse. Always Native won his only race so far at Newcastle after showing a lot of promise in his preparatory work at Newmarket.

Menziesville at Cheltenham & Ivory is unlikely to encounter an opponent of the class of Lear Fan in the Rhine and Moselle Maiden Stakes.

Sun Princess stays on Leger course

By Michael Seely

Sun Princess remains a definite runner for the St Leger despite the steady downward at Doncaster yesterday. This was the message spelled out loud and clear by Dick Hern after the royal trainer had won the May Hill Stakes with Satinette.

The ground was heavy when the filly finished second to Sid Selling at Newbury, but she was a Yorkshire Oaks and don't forget that Epsom was nearly abandoned before she won the Oaks by 12 lengths.

There must, however, be some doubts about Satinette's participation. Royal Sangster had warned on Wednesday that the winner of the Aga Khan's game and consistent four-year-old by stalling a decisive advantage as the field straightened out for home.

"If a horse deserved a group race it's Satinette," said the trainer. "He will miss the Jockey Club Cup, but he's going to be trained for the Cup races in 1984." Mountain Lodge was under pressure in the straight and could only finish third.

Two miracles of survival made the headlines. Sandy Barclay, the 'wonder' jockey of the 60s, made a career of his own when winning the Kington Park Stakes in 1984. Annie Edge of the astute Welsh trainer Derek Haydn Jones and Out of Hand, the colt who was so badly injured at Brighton and Newmarket last season but was so well trained by the jockey and the old magic touch was apparent as the Scotman produced Annie Edge with a perfectly-timed run to catch Lester Bignall and Salim, close home. "He may not suit everyone, but he'll do for me," said Haydn Jones.

Top flight Torrance takes off with seven birdies and an eagle

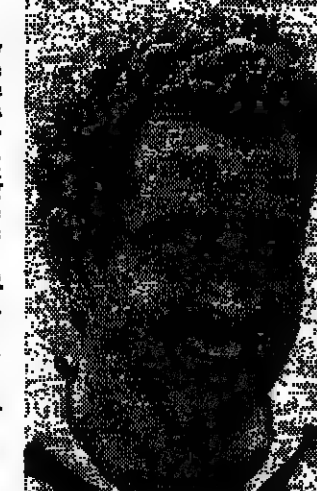
From Mitchell Platt, Crans-sur-Sierre

The relief of being virtually assured of his Ryder Cup place secured to go to the 1983 Ryder Cup in the £130,000 European Masters sponsored by Ebel on the Crans-sur-Sierre course here yesterday. His 63, nine under-par, was a work of art and it provided further evidence of his abundant talents and his value to Tony Jacklin who Europe face the Americans in October.

In full flow Torrance is one of the most marvellous sights on a golf course. It is not simply the sheer power with which he dispatches the ball but the fine control that he possesses. Even with the driver, with which he can power a ball more than 300 yards in the rarefied air of this 4,000 ft high Alpine resort, he seems to have the ball on a string.

Since his success in the Scandinavian Open in July the husky Scot has struggled to score well even though there was little wrong with his game from tee to green.

Torrance has one of the smoothest putting strokes in the business, but for no accountable reason his touch vanished. So he turned to his father, Bob, who is the professional at the Crans-sur-Sierre club, for advice by peering into his father's golf bag, taking 'permanent loan' of a centre shaft putter which on Monday he had fitted with a stiffer shaft by Borm Wilbur who has much respected in the art of refurbishing golf clubs.



Torrance: in full flow

By rationing himself to only 28 putts Torrance emphasised that the change of putter has worked a treat. What was more impressive, however, was the manner in which he struck the ball. He made hardly a single error on a marvelous day when the sun shone brilliantly and made one think how nice it would be to wrap this beautiful Swiss resort in time and take it home to show those less fortunate not to have set their eyes on such a scenic setting.

Torrance collected his seven birdies and one eagle, the latter achieved with a curving putt of fully 40 ft to the 515 yards 13th in a 12-hole spell in the middle of his

round. He illustrated his enormous power by driving the seventh (171 yards) and almost reaching the 16th (328 yards) although he insisted that to break 60 would require immense good fortune.

Even so the lowest scoring of the summer is so often achieved when the tour comes to this course. In 1960 the Italian, Baldo Vin Dasu managed a 60, a score which still stands as the lowest in the history of the European tour and in 1978 the Spaniard Jose Canizares established a world record with 11 birdies and an eagle in succession spread across two rounds.

Hugh Boscchi, of South Africa, might challenge this particular record today, for he finished his opening round with five consecutive birdies.

A similar streak of scoring is what Nick Faldo (70) and Severiano Ballesteros (72) will need to apply pressure to Torrance, who arrived at a real contender late in the day but compiling an excellent 64.

On no less than three occasions Lyle was putting for eagles, and it was his putter that let him down, at the last hole where he released from two feet to tie the lead. Even so, he collected eight birdies in a round which suggests that he has finally regained the form following a long spell in the doldrums.

Success in the Madrid Open at the start of the year.

Leading scores (65 unless stated): 63, S. Torrance; 64, S. Lyle; 65, V. Fernandez (Aust); 66, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 67, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 68, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 69, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 70, N. Faldo (England); 71, S. Lyle (Scotland); 72, S. Ballesteros (Spain); 73, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 74, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 75, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 76, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 77, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 78, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 79, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 80, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 81, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 82, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 83, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 84, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 85, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 86, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 87, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 88, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 89, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 90, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 91, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 92, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 93, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 94, J. Baldo Vin Dasu (Italy); 95, J. 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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Fiat fills another gap in its range

New contenders are arriving thick and fast in the already overcrowded and fiercely competitive medium car market. Making its debut at the Frankfurt Motor Show next week is the Fiat Regata, a much-needed replacement for the outdated Fiat 131 range which is better known here as the Mirafiori. It goes on sale in Italy immediately but British buyers will have to wait until the spring.

Fiat is in urgent need of a modern offering to fill the gap in its rapidly-improving range which has become so evident because of the Mirafiori's lack of appeal. Together with Uno, Fiat's new Super mini, and the rejuvenated Granada it means that only one further gap remains to be tackled, a replacement for the big Argenta executive saloon.

From the brief details leaked by Fiat to what appears to be a first-hand account of the car, it seems there will be six versions of the Regata with 1,300cc, 1,495cc and 1,585cc (turbo) petrol engines and a 1,744cc diesel.

Star billing

VW-Audi has already ensured star billing at Frankfurt by revealing that three existing new versions of the Audi Quattro, VW Scirocco and Passat will appear there. The Quattro Sport is clearly an attempt to cash in on the four-wheel drive car's early successes. It is 12½ inches shorter than the standard Quattro making it in effect a very restricted two-plus-two coupe. Power comes from a 2.2 litre version of the existing five-cylinder engine fitted with a new alloy block, four valves per cylinder and turbo-charged to produce 300 bhp.

Extensive use is made of aluminium-reinforced Kevlar for lighter bodywork, while suspension, brakes

and other running gear are derived from the rally programme. With that sort of start in life and an acknowledgement by the factory that there is plenty more power to come for the tuning brigade, it should make quite an impact on motor sports enthusiasts.

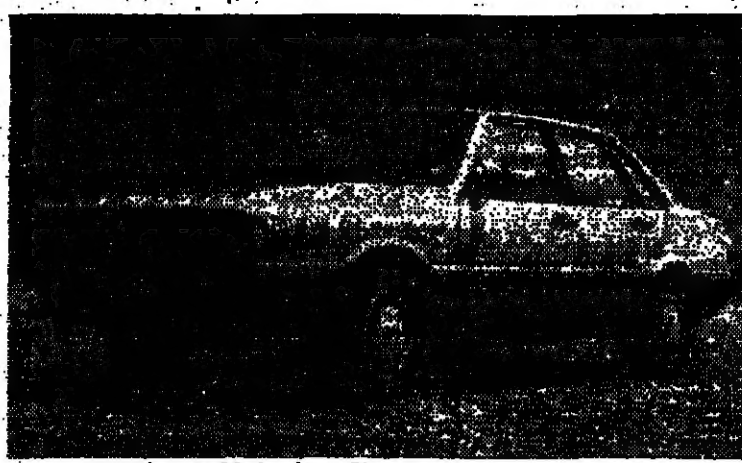
The Wolfsburg engineers are putting their increasing 4 x 4 expertise to more down-to-earth use with a four-wheeled drive estate, the Passat Tetra. The Scirocco gets a new 16-valve version of the present 1.8 litre injected engine. It will accelerate to 62 mph in 8 seconds and has a top speed of more than 130 mph.

Sierra rumours

Ford's announcement this week of a new three-door version of the Sierra together with a few cosmetic touches for the 1984 five-door models at last put an end to rumours that have been rife for months. Despite repeated denials by Ford, the grapevine insisted that Sierra's sleek shape had proved to be a little too way out for said Cortina buyers, and to rectify the position the company was rushing through a facelift.

It was said that Sierras with a difference had been seen making moonlight test runs. "Quite right", the Ford men now admit, "but what they saw was either the new three-door models which were planned all along and look different because of the elongating effect of a single door and big one-piece rear quarter light window, or the 1984 five-door models with colour-tinted plastic bumpers, black side protection mouldings and body-coloured radiator grille".

The new three-door models are being offered only in downmarket Sierra and Sierra L versions with



Audi 80 Quattro: Three exciting versions

engine options of 1.3 and 1.6 petrol units and 2.3 litre diesel. Prices are not yet available.

Gentle BMW

A gentle encounter with BMW's remarkable new 525e earlier this year left me fingering with anticipation of a longer acquaintance. Now that I have spent a week with it covering nearly 1,200 miles of very mixed motoring I am convinced that BMW's courage in risking its reputation as a producer of fast, sports saloons by launching a slow-revving, economy model is going to pay off.

It will help readers if I recall some of the 525e's salient points. The Munich engineers took the existing six-cylinder M20 engine, one of the freest revving and most powerful 2/3 litre units around and, not to mince words, converted it into an old-fashioned slogger. In 2.7 litre form as installed in the new 5 series body it produces peak power of 125 bhp at only 4,250 rpm compared with over 6,000 for the standard engine.

Translated into on-the-road performance that means it will cruise at 70 mph while ticking over at a mere 2,000 rpm and will top 100 mph at around 3,000 rpm. No wonder the engineers chose the Greek letter Eta (efficiency) to label it and are already talking of it as the forerunner of a whole new line of fuel-efficient BMW's which will be produced in parallel with the existing range.

And to that the surprising news that this is one of the very few energy-saving models with an automatic gearbox and the picture becomes even more exciting. But this is an automatic with a difference. The fourth gear is a long-legged overdrive which cuts out torque converter losses with the help of a lock-up clutch.

Nothing is achieved without a

compensating penalty, however, and the 525e will not win any prizes for overtaking if left in drive. Used manually - and the spring-loaded lever makes this child's play - it is no such. I resorted to this tactic fairly frequently for overtaking in circumstances where a quick burst of speed was the safest way.

The trade has been suggesting that 525e buyers will not come from the ranks of existing BMW owners but rather from elderly drivers of more sedate marques who are looking for transport with a youthful image but still capable of being driven leisurely. I am not so sure. Judging by the number of BMW drivers who showed interest in the 525e and cooed with envy at my overall consumption of 30 miles per gallon, the pundits could be wrong. In my view it makes a natural progression for BMW owners with growing families and tightening budgets.

I found it to be very relaxing family transport on a holiday trip to Scotland, but one still capable of putting up fast times when the need arose. Like more recent BMW's it was rock steady on the road, the vented front disc brakes and the addition of discs at the rear instead of the standard drums were well up to the demanding task of stopping a full five-seater automatic which lacks the engine braking available on manual versions.

Vital statistics

Model: BMW 525e
Price: £11,495
Engine: 2693 cc, in-line 6-cylinder
Performance: Max speed 115mph, 0-60 10.2 seconds
Official consumption: Urban 24.6mpg, 56mpg, 47.3mpg, 75mpg, 37.7mpg.
Length: 15.1ft
Insurance: Group 7

The Fiat Regata: Making its debut in Frankfurt

Ivan Page-Ratcliff

NEW MERCEDES BENZ 190
The new Mercedes-Benz 190 is a four-door sedan with a 1.9 litre engine, 115 bhp, 11,000 miles, hard and soft top, manual, B.R.G., full service history, top quality car. Very well as new. Offer over £5,000.
Tel: 0222 610651

NEW MERCEDES BENZ 230
The new Mercedes-Benz 230 is a four-door sedan with a 2.3 litre engine, 150 bhp, 11,000 miles, hard and soft top, manual, B.R.G., full service history, top quality car. Very well as new. Offer over £5,000.
Tel: 0222 610651

NEW MERCEDES BENZ 280 SE
The new Mercedes-Benz 280 SE is a four-door sedan with a 2.8 litre engine, 180 bhp, 11,000 miles, hard and soft top, manual, B.R.G., full service history, top quality car. Very well as new. Offer over £5,000.
Tel: 0222 610651

NEW MERCEDES BENZ 300
The new Mercedes-Benz 300 is a four-door sedan with a 3.0 litre engine, 200 bhp, 11,000 miles, hard and soft top, manual, B.R.G., full service history, top quality car. Very well as new. Offer over £5,000.
Tel: 0222 610651

NEW MERCEDES BENZ 300 SEL
The new Mercedes-Benz 300 SEL is a four-door sedan with a 3.0 litre engine, 200 bhp, 11,000 miles, hard and soft top, manual, B.R.G., full service history, top quality car. Very well as new. Offer over £5,000.
Tel: 0222 610651

NEW MERCEDES BENZ 300 T
The new Mercedes-Benz 300 T is a four-door sedan with a 3.0 litre engine, 200 bhp, 11,000 miles, hard and soft top, manual, B.R.G., full service history, top quality car. Very well as new. Offer over £5,000.
Tel: 0222 610651

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Tel: 0222 610651

Mercedes 230E AUTO

Sept 31, 1983. 1,400 miles, champagne metallic, black leather interior, electric windows, air conditioning, heated seats, 115 bhp, 11,000 miles, hard and soft top, manual, B.R.G., full service history, top quality car. Very well as new. Offer over £5,000.
Tel: 0222 610651

Mercedes 280 SE
Automatic 1983 V16, 180 bhp, 11,000 miles, hard and soft top, manual, B.R.G., full service history, top quality car. Very well as new. Offer over £5,000.
Tel: 0222 610651

Mercedes 230
V16, 180 bhp, 11,000 miles, hard and soft top, manual, B.R.G., full service history, top quality car. Very well as new. Offer over £5,000.
Tel: 0222 610651

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